



## Justices: Partisan gerrymandering none of our business

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that partisan gerrymandering of congressional and legislative districts is none of its business, a decision that leaves state officials free from federal court challenges to their plans to shape districts to blatantly help their parties.

The court's conservative majority, including the two justices appointed by President Donald Trump, prevailed in a 5-4 ruling that dealt a huge blow to efforts to combat the redrawing of district lines to benefit a particular party.

The decision, on the last day before the justices' long summer break, has no effect on racial gerrymandering challenges. Courts have barred redistricting aimed at reducing the political representation of racial minorities for a half-century.

But the outcome brings an immediate halt to lawsuits that sought to rein in the most partisan districting plans that can result when one party controls a state's



In this April 1, 2019, file photo, Mindy Nagel poses for a photograph at the threshold of her home in Cincinnati. Nagel's home is split by two House districts.

Associated Press

legislature and governor's office.

In the short term, Republicans are the prime beneficiaries of the ruling. They

made dramatic political gains in the 2010 election just before the last round of redistricting, so they have controlled the process in

many states. Democratic voters had persuaded lower courts to strike down districting plans in Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and

Wisconsin. The one Republican suit came in Maryland, against a single congressional district.

Continued on Page 5

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# Maine governor signs rules to finally allow pot sales

By MARINA VILLENEUVE

Associated Press

**AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)** — Maine Gov. Janet Mills signed a bill Thursday setting up a legal framework for the sale of recreational marijuana to adults as early as next year. Her office said Thursday that the state's Office of Marijuana Policy plans to accept applications for licenses by the end of 2019. The Democratic governor said her administration has worked quickly to implement the voter-approved law since she took office earlier this year. The state's voters chose to legalize both the use and sale of recreational marijuana among adults in November 2016, but months of delays and political

squabbles have slowed the implementation of a commercial industry. The state now has a legal road map for marijuana to arrive in stores as soon as early 2020. State officials say retail adult use marijuana could arrive in stores as soon as early 2020. Maine already has legal medical marijuana. The law becomes effective in September. At that point, the Office of Marijuana Policy has 60 days to finalize regulations. Then, the state must start accepting applications within 30 days. In the meantime, Mills' administration is working on a public health and safety education campaign, and figuring out how the state will track, trace and license marijuana.

"We have drafted these rules with a view toward keeping the public's health and safety at the forefront," said Office of Marijuana Policy Director Erik Gunderson. The new framework makes several changes to state law ahead of sales. Municipalities could opt in or out of allowing marijuana sales. Only a handful of cities and towns have laid the groundwork for retail sales. Currently, state law defines poisonous or harmful substances as "adulterated." The new law says Maine would not consider edibles produced with recreational marijuana adulterated. Under the new law, Maine residents who have lived in the state for at least four



In this Dec. 13, 2019 file photo, a marijuana plant grows under artificial light at an indoor facility in Portland, Maine.

Associated Press



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years would have to claim at least 51% ownership of a cannabis company to qualify for a license. The state would also authorize the department to impose an administrative hold on a licensee. Marijuana is legal for adult recreational use in 10 states

and the District of Columbia, though some, like Maine, have yet to set up commercial sales. Medical marijuana was already legal in Maine, and under the 2016 law, adults over 21 can possess up to 2.5 ounces (70.9 grams) of marijuana without penalty.

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## Double jeopardy fight looms after Manafort pleads not guilty

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK** and  
**TOM HAYS**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A frail Paul Manafort shuffled into court Thursday in handcuffs and prison garb and pleaded not guilty to New York state mortgage fraud charges that could keep him behind bars even if President Donald Trump pardons him for federal crimes uncovered during the probe of Russian election meddling.

A lawyer for Manafort, the former 2016 Trump campaign chairman turned twice-convicted federal inmate, said he intends to challenge the state case under New York's strong double jeopardy protections. State law prohibits prosecutors from bringing state charges against a person who has previously been charged for the same

conduct under federal law. "In our views, the laws of New York do not allow the people to do what they did in this case," lawyer Todd Blanche told reporters after Manafort's arraignment.

Manafort, wearing a blue prison jumpsuit, walked with a limp as court officers led him down a public hall to and from the courtroom. He had been transferred last week to a federal detention center in New York for his arraignment in the state case.

Manafort, 70, remained seated as he entered his plea and had to be helped out of his chair when taken out of the courtroom. He used a wheelchair at his last federal sentencing in March because of gout.

Manafort is already serving a 7½-year prison sentence for misleading the U.S. government about his lucrative

foreign lobbying work, hiding millions of dollars from tax authorities and encouraging witnesses to lie on his behalf.

He is due back in court in the state case on Oct. 9. His lawyers asked if he could skip all pretrial hearings, but Judge Maxwell Wiley said he will decide that on a hearing-by-hearing basis.

Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. announced the state charges in March, just minutes after Manafort was sentenced in the second of his two federal cases, saying in a statement at the time: "No one is beyond the law in New York."

Manafort's federal cases were byproducts of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian influence on the 2016 election, but a judge who presided over one of them made clear that they had nothing



Paul Manafort arrives in court, Thursday, June 27, 2019 in New York. President Trump's former campaign manager is to be arraigned on state mortgage fraud charges.

Associated Press

to do with Russian election interference, but rather Manafort's years of "gaming the system."

The 16-count New York indictment alleges Manafort gave false and misleading information in applying for residential mortgage loans, starting in 2015 and continuing until three days before Trump's inauguration in 2017. He is also charged with falsifying business records and conspiracy. Some of the alleged con-

duct described in the New York indictment echoes the charges and testimony in Manafort's federal cases.

Paperwork filed by New York prosecutors in connection with Thursday's arraignment cite admissions Manafort made during his federal trial in Washington in September regarding misrepresentations in mortgage applications for properties in Manhattan and Brooklyn and on Long Island. □



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In this June 12, 2017, file photo, then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, and White House senior adviser Jared Kushner listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson cited an awkward encounter with President Donald Trump's son-in-law in a restaurant as an ex-

## Tillerson says Kushner conducted foreign policy without him

ample of diplomacy being conducted behind his back when he was in the administration, according to a transcript of a congressional hearing released Thursday.

Tillerson, who was fired by Trump in March 2018, mentioned the story during a day of closed-door testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee about his rocky, 13-month tenure as secretary of state. He described his surprise to find that he hap-

pened to be dining in the same Washington restaurant while Jared Kushner and Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs Luis Videgaray had a private meal.

The former top U.S. diplomat and CEO of ExxonMobil said he "could see the color go out" of the Mexican official's face when Tillerson greeted them at their table with a smile.

"And I said: 'I don't want to interrupt what y'all are doing,'" Tillerson recalled for the committee. "I said 'Give me a call next time you're coming to town. And I left it at that.'"

The White House declined comment on Tillerson's depiction of Kushner's activities, which suggest that Trump's top diplomat was in the dark as the new administration was grappling with major foreign policy issues. Trump had harsh words for his former top diplomat in December after Tillerson said in rare public remarks that the president was "undisciplined" and did not like to read briefing reports. Trump called him "dumb as a rock" in a tweet.

Tillerson described the restaurant incident as an example of one of the challenges he faced as secretary of state until Trump abruptly fired him over social media.

He said it was a "unique situation" to have the president's son-in-law as a White House adviser, saying "there was not a real clear understanding" of Kushner's role and responsibilities.

"No one really described what he was going to be doing," he said. "I just knew what his title was." Tillerson said there other examples. He noted that Kushner "met often" with Mohammad bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, and that the president's son-in-law requested that the secretary speak with an official from the kingdom to discuss a document they had been developing that was "kind of a roadmap" for the future of the relationship between the two countries. The foreign trips raised concerns, the former secretary said, because Kushner would not coordinate with the State Department or the local embassy in the countries he visited. Tillerson said he raised the issue with him but "not much changed." A committee member asked about a private dinner in May 2017 attended by Kushner, Steve Bannon, bin Salman and Prince Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates in which they discussed the plans by Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. to blockade the neighboring Gulf nation of Qatar, which hosts the headquarters of U.S. Central Command, in the coming weeks.

Tillerson said he didn't know about any such dinner but that it would have made him "angry" if it had occurred, since he and others in the administration were caught off guard by the blockade a few weeks later. □

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### GERRYMANDERING

Continued from Front

Redistricting will next take place in 2021, once 2020 census results are available. In another politically charged case decided Thursday, the court blocked for now the Trump administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the next census. It's unclear whether the Trump administration has time to address the court's concerns. Printing of census forms is supposed to begin next week.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion in both cases, siding with the liberals on the census and the conservatives on redistricting. Although the chief justice often seeks broader coalitions for relatively narrow decisions, he ended up writing a sweeping redistricting opinion that drew an impassioned dissent from the liberal justices.

Voters and elected officials should be the arbiters of what is a political dispute, Roberts said in his opinion for the court. Federal courts are the wrong place to settle these disputes, he said. "We have never struck down a partisan gerrymander as unconstitutional despite various requests over the past 45 years. The expansion of judicial authority would not be into just any area of controversy, but into one of the most intensely partisan aspects of American political life," Roberts wrote.

The court rejected challenges to Republican-drawn congressional districts in North Carolina and a Democratic district in Maryland.

"Our conclusion does not condone excessive partisan gerrymandering," Roberts wrote, acknowledging that the North Carolina and Maryland maps are "highly partisan."

In a dissent for the four lib-

erals, Justice Elena Kagan wrote, "For the first time ever, this court refuses to remedy a constitutional violation because it thinks the task beyond judicial capabilities." Kagan, in mournful tones, read a summary of her dissent in court to emphasize her disagreement. Partisan gerrymandering at its most extreme "amounts to 'rigging elections,'" Kagan wrote, quoting retired Justice Anthony Kennedy in a case from 2004.

The practice allows politicians to "cherry-pick voters to ensure their reelection," she wrote.

Advances in technology have allowed map-makers to draw districts with increasing precision, and advocates of limiting partisan districting have said the problem will grow even worse in the redistricting that follows the 2020 census. One party can exaggerate and entrench its power, even in states that are otherwise closely divided between Republicans and Democrats.

Federal courts in five states had concluded that redistricting plans put in place under one party's control could go too far and that there were ways to identify and manage excessively partisan districts. Those courts included 15 federal judges appointed by Republican and Democratic presidents reaching back to Jimmy Carter.

But the five Republican-appointed justices decided otherwise.

The decision effectively reverses the outcome of rulings in Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and Ohio, where courts had ordered new maps drawn, and ends proceedings in Wisconsin, where a retrial was supposed to take place this summer after the Supreme Court last year threw out a decision on procedural grounds.



In this April 1, 2019, file photo, Mindy Nagel points to her home on a congressional district map of her neighborhood in Cincinnati. Nagel's home is split by two House districts.

Associated Press

The court was examining two cases, from Maryland and North Carolina, with strong evidence that elected officials charged with drawing and approving congressional districts acted for maximum partisan advantage. In North Carolina, Republicans ran the process and sought to preserve a 10-3 split in the congressional delegation in favor of the GOP, even as statewide races are usually closely divided. In Maryland, Democrats controlled redistricting and sought to flip one district that had been represented by a Republican for 20 years. Both plans succeeded, and lower courts concluded that the districts violated the Constitution. Kennedy's retirement from

the court last year was a major setback to proponents of limits. He had kept the Supreme Court open to the possibility, though he never voted to strike down a district as too partisan. Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Kennedy's replacement, was part of Thursday's majority. Proponents of limiting partisan gerrymandering still have several routes open.

Among those are challenges in state courts, including a pending North Carolina lawsuit. Those court challenges can only work, though, in places that have state constitutional provisions that allow for them. That's how state court judges in Pennsylvania struck down Republican-drawn congressional districts and redrew the congressional map in 2018. □

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# Survey: 2018 turnout high, voters embrace expansive options

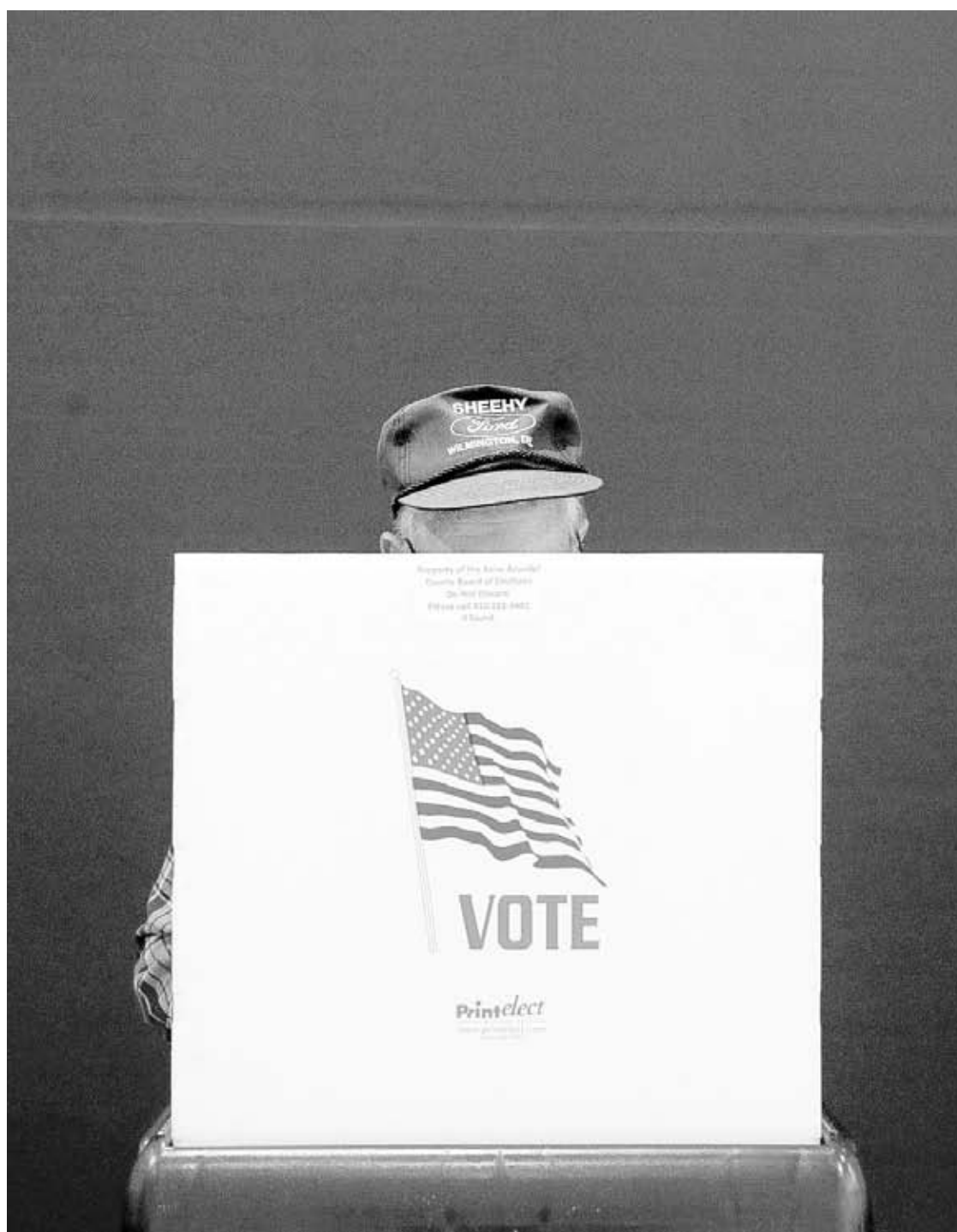
**ATLANTA (AP)** — More than 120 million Americans cast ballots in the 2018 midterm elections, with turnout surging to that of a typical presidential year in some states and the highest percentages of voters in places that have expanded access to the polls, according to an analysis of data released Thursday by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

The 2018 Election Administration and Voting Survey highlights the decentralized nature of U.S. elections and disparities within state voting laws. For instance, 25 states have passed voting restrictions in the last decade while others have been expanding access by implementing vote by mail, same-day voter registration and other measures.

In 2018, six states saw turnout levels exceed 60%, when considering the number of U.S. citizens eligible to vote, according to the survey. Among those were Oregon and Colorado, which conduct their elections entirely by mail, considered one of the more accessible voting options. The other four states provide opportunities to cast ballots early, allow voters to register and vote on Election Day and don't require an excuse for absentee voting.

"I hope that data like this encourages a race to the top," said Myrna Perez, director of the voting rights and elections program at The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU's School of Law. "It's important to be able to show that states can do these reforms and it works." The survey found the rate of early, in-person voting more than doubled since the 2014 election and vote by mail was used by one-quarter of the electorate last year.

Voting rights advocates say same-day or Election Day voter registration not only eliminates deadlines to register weeks in advance of an election but also allows voters who have failed to update their addresses with election officials to cast ballots that will be counted. In many states,



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, a voter fills out a ballot at a polling place at Lake Shore Elementary School, in Pasadena, Md.

Associated Press

voters who have an issue on Election Day with their registration, such as an outdated address, are given provisional ballots that may or may not be counted.

The survey found that, in 2018, 25 states and the District of Columbia had policies rejecting such ballots cast by voters outside their assigned precinct.

The six states with the lowest percentage of voter turnout were Hawaii, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas and Tennessee. Of those, Mississippi and Tennessee have strict photo ID requirements for voters, which critics say can limit voter participation among college students who live on campus in another state and don't need

an in-state driver's license; the elderly who no longer drive and let their licenses expire; and those who rely on public transportation and may have difficulty taking time off from work to obtain a driver's license.

Voter ID laws don't necessarily result in low voter turnout. Wisconsin has a strict photo ID requirement and saw turnout reach 61% in 2018, among the highest in the nation. But voting experts caution high turnout also doesn't mean voters weren't disenfranchised due to restrictive policies.

"We are not a democracy for the vast majority, we are a democracy for all of us," Perez said. "We can't say just because more of a majority chose to participate

erases the fact that some couldn't."

A report on the survey, which is based on data submitted by state and local election offices, is sent to Congress after each federal election and the data is used to analyze voting trends nationwide. Along with collecting information on election administration, the commission is charged with developing voluntary guidelines for voting systems and disbursing grants for voting equipment upgrades.

At a conference held Thursday in Washington by the commission, panelists discussed the challenges facing local election officials. "Many of us do feel like we are having more and

more responsibilities piled on us," said Linda Lindberg, the general registrar from Arlington, Virginia, adding the commission's survey provides valuable metrics for her and her colleagues as they ask for additional resources. "It will help us both at the local and the state level to say, 'Look, this is how election administration is changing. Here's where we were years ago. Here's where we are today and here is what other jurisdictions are doing.'"

Democrats in Congress have been pushing for voting reforms to expand voter registration opportunities and increase access, make Election Day a federal holiday and limit the removal of voters from registration lists. On the issue of voter removals, concerns have been raised in some states — particularly Ohio and Georgia — that election officials have been too aggressive in removing people from these lists.

The election survey found 17 million voter registration records were removed from the rolls between the 2016 and 2018 elections. Federal law requires states to maintain accurate voter rolls, although there has been some disagreement on how to interpret certain sections of the law.

The survey also collected data on voting technology. In 2018, 10 states had more than half of their jurisdictions using electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper record of each ballot that is verified by the voter and can later be audited. They are Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Cybersecurity experts have warned these machines are vulnerable to hacking and must be replaced.

The survey also found the use of electronic poll books to check in voters has surged 48% since the 2016 presidential election. The technology has been implemented statewide in seven states and the District of Columbia. □



## Texas police officer charged with murder in Dallas shooting

**DALLAS (AP)** — A Texas police officer has been indicted on a murder charge two weeks after shooting the unarmed driver of a truck that had been reported stolen as the vehicle swerved past his police SUV in a Dallas parking lot.

Farmers Branch Officer Michael Dunn, 43, turned himself in Wednesday night after a grand jury returned the unusually swift indictment in the killing of 35-year-old Juan Moreno, officials said Thursday.

On June 12, police in suburban Farmers Branch spotted a white pickup that had been reported stolen from the city of Irving. Dunn followed the vehicle over the Dallas city line to a shopping center and opened fire as Moreno was pulling out of the parking lot, police said. Surveillance video appears to show Dunn firing into the driver's side of the truck as it makes a sweeping turn around his cruiser.

Carlos Quintanilla, who is acting as a spokesman for the Moreno family, commended the speedy indictment.

"This sends a message that officers do not have the right to kill someone, that officers have to comply with the rule of law," said Quintanilla.

Dunn, who is on administrative leave, could not be immediately reached for comment. Farmers Branch police declined to identify his attorney and a spokeswoman for the Dallas County District Attorney's office said she does not know who represents the officer. His indictment is set to be formally released Friday.

Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot said the indictment demonstrates that "the system can work quickly, fairly, and efficiently." Dunn surrendered to police in Seagoville around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and was released from the city jail about an hour later on a

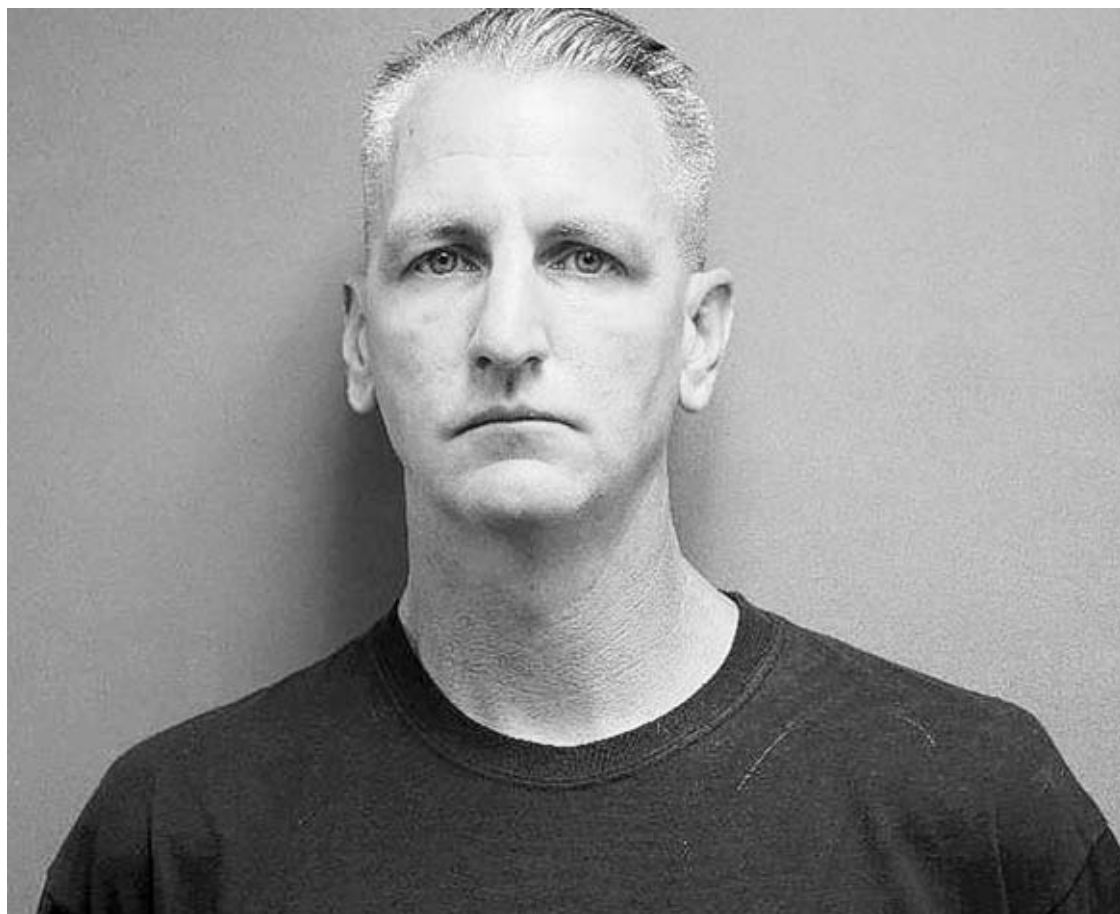
\$150,000 bond, according to police records. The officer is a military veteran and has worked for the Farmers Branch Police Department for nearly 13 years, Police Chief David Hale said.

During a Thursday press conference, Hale said the shooting was a tragedy and that he hopes the judicial process brings closure.

"Our hearts go out to the Moreno family for their loss," Hale said. "Let us also be reminded that Farmers Branch police Officer Mike Dunn's life has been forever changed." The internal investigation of Dunn's actions is ongoing and the Farmers Branch department is awaiting information from Dallas police, who conducted the criminal investigation of the shooting, Hale said.

Hale said the surveillance footage of the shooting was "difficult to watch" but "sometimes videos do not tell the entire story." A Dallas police spokeswoman said Dunn was wearing a body camera but that it didn't record the shooting. No weapon was found on Moreno or in the truck, she said. Dunn is the second Farmers Branch officer to be charged with murder in recent years.

Last year, a jury found Ken Johnson guilty of murder for the 2016 shooting of a 16-year-old who burglarized his SUV. Johnson was sentenced to 10 years in prison after trial evidence showed the off-duty officer chased Jose Cruz and another teenager with his sport utility vehicle, rammed their car and then repeatedly fired into it, killing Cruz. □



This photo provided by the Seagoville Police Department shows Michael Damien Dunn.

Associated Press



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# Greece inks undersea gas deals despite environmental warning

By NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

— Financially-struggling Greece signed contracts on Thursday for offshore gas exploration in large tracts of the Mediterranean, despite warnings from environmental groups that the project threatens marine life habitats.

The deal will allow a consortium of energy companies Total and ExxonMobil with Greece's Hellenic Petroleum to explore two areas that are together about the size of Switzerland - 40,000 square kilometers (15,000 sq. miles) - south and south-west of the island of Crete. It's the latest and by far biggest in a series of concessions for oil and gas exploration in the west of the country.

Fears of confrontation with neighboring Turkey over energy extraction rights have precluded similar deals in the Aegean Sea and east of Crete. Turkey currently has a drilling ship, escort-



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arrives for an EU summit at the Europa building in Brussels, Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Associated Press

ed by warships, in waters where Cyprus has exclusive economic rights, and has threatened to make similar moves further west.

Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature have appealed to Greece's su-

preme court to block the Crete project. They say prospecting in deep waters off the southern island will threaten endangered whales, dolphins and other marine life, and argue that Greece would do better to

invest in renewable energy to help fight global warming.

Left-wing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras hailed Thursday's signing as a boon to the economy and promised "the strictest" environ-

mental safeguards.

"Greece is making a determined move to exploit its mineral wealth," Tsipras said at the ceremony in Athens, saying the deal would help an economy battered by a decade-long financial crisis that resulted in three international bailouts — the last signed in 2015.

"Four years ago this was a country on the brink of bankruptcy," Tsipras said. "Now it aims to attain energy self-sufficiency, or at least to cover part of its requirements."

He said the exploration would start next year, last eight years with an option for extension, and should provide "a clear picture" of potential deposits in 2-4 years. Greece stands to receive just 8 million euros from the concessions, but also revenues and taxes from any profits.

WWF Greece marine officer Dimitris Ibrahim told The Associated Press that the signing marked a "dark day" for the country. □

# Putin sees common aims, pushing Trump on arms pact at G-20

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin says he does not expect any breakthroughs at the Group of 20 summit in Japan starting Friday but hopes G-20 leaders find a common understanding of what's needed to bolster economies and financial institutions.

Putin told the Financial Times newspaper in an interview released Thursday he wants leaders at the summit "to reaffirm their intention - at least an intention" to establish rules "everyone would follow" and to have the same commitment "to strengthening international financial and trade institutions."

The Russia leader and U.S. President Donald Trump are set to meet on the G-20 summit's sidelines, where Putin said he plans to push Trump for an extension of the 2010 New START nuclear arms reduction treaty. The United States gave notice this year of its inten-



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a reception for graduates of Russian military education institutions in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Thursday, June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

tion to withdraw from a Cold War-era nuclear missile treaty with Russia is regarded as a cornerstone of European nuclear security. The U.S. alleges Russia has

violated the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which is set to end in August under Washington's six-month notice unless Moscow destroys a

new missile system. Since then, Russia has focused its arms-control efforts on New START. "I hope that I will be able to talk about it with Don-

ald if we happen to meet in Osaka," Putin said. "We said that we are ready to extend this treaty between the United States and Russia, but we have not seen any relevant initiative from our American partners."

The Russian president previewed what he might argue to give the issue urgency and get some movement from the U.S.

"They keep silent while the treaty expires in 2021," Putin said. "If we do not begin talks now, it would be over because there would be no time even for formalities." In the Financial Times interview, Putin shed little light on his relationship with the U.S. leader, which gained notice partly because of Trump's of complimentary remarks about Putin.

Trump's apparent willingness to accept Putin's denials of Russia interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election also has put the dynamic between the two leaders under close scrutiny. □





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## Afghan president visits Pakistan, talks peace, renews ties

By MUNIR AHMED  
Associated Press

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Afghanistan's president Thursday praised Pakistan's efforts to advance the peace process in the region as he reached out to Islamabad for help in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table with the Kabul government, Pakistani officials said.

Ashraf Ghani's remarks came at the start of a two-day visit to Pakistan, his first since elections that brought Prime Minister Imran Khan to power last year. The visit is also seen as an attempt by Ghani to reset the often-strained relationship between the two neighbors amid the stalled peace push with the Taliban.

Ghani arrived in Islamabad a day after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Kabul, where he said Washington was hopeful of a peace deal before Sept. 1. His visit also came after dozens of Afghan political leaders — but no Taliban representatives — attended a peace conference in Pakistan last week to pave the way for further Afghan-to-Afghan dialogue. Pakistan has facilitated ongoing peace talks between Washington and the Taliban as U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad tries to find a negotiated exit to the 17-year war in Afghanistan.

Ghani on Thursday first met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi before holding a one-on-one meeting with Khan.

During his meeting with Qureshi, the Afghan president thanked Islamabad and "praised Pakistan's role in the peace process," according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Later, he met with Khan in his sprawling office.

According to a govern-

ment statement, the two leaders "agreed to open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of the two peoples and countries and for advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region."

It said Ghani and Khan also agreed that enduring peace in Afghanistan would bring rich economic dividends to both the countries.

It said Khan "reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to support the Afghan peace process as a shared responsibility." It quoted Khan as saying that Pakistan supports a result-oriented intra-Afghan dialogue.

Ghani was also scheduled to meet with President Arif Alvi before traveling to the eastern city of Lahore to attend a gathering of businessmen.

He met with Khan ahead of the next round of talks Saturday between the Taliban and Khalilzad in Qatar, where the insurgents maintain a political office.

Ghani was expected to meet with Pakistan's army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, who is believed to have played a key role in arranging talks between Khalilzad and the Taliban in recent month.

Since being appointed in September, Khalilzad has met with all sides, including the Taliban, Afghan officials and Pakistan's political and military leaders. The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

The Taliban have refused to talk directly with Kabul, considering it a U.S. puppet. The insurgents, how-



In this photo released by the Press Information Department, visiting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani reviews guard of honor in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

ever, say they will sit down with any Afghan, even a government official, but as an ordinary citizen and not as a government represen-

tative.

More than 2,400 U.S. service personnel have died in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led coalition invaded

in October 2001 to oust the Taliban and hunt down al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

On Thursday, the Pentagon announced the identities of two soldiers killed in combat on Wednesday in Uruzgan province. They were 32-year-old Army Master Sgt. Michael B. Riley and 24-year-old Army Sgt. James G. Johnston. The Pentagon said both men died of wounds sustained from small arms fire while engaged in combat operations. No other details were provided.

An earlier attempt at restart Afghan-to-Afghan talks was scuttled after neither side could agree on the list of participants. □

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# Libya's UN-backed government reclaims key town near Tripoli

By NOHA ELHENNAWY  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Libya's U.N.-backed government re-claimed a strategic town near Tripoli from opposition forces that have been fighting for the past three months to capture the country's capital, with a government spokesman saying Thursday its fighters were in full control of the town.

The capture of Gharyan, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Tripoli, is significant because it had served as a key supply route for the forces of commander Khalifa Hifter, head of the self-styled Libyan National Army.

The LNA, based in eastern Libya and loyal to a rival government, launched an offensive on Tripoli in April, setting off fierce fighting that has threatened to plunge the country into another bout of violence on the scale of the 2011 conflict that ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi and led to his death. "All of Gharyan is under our control," Col. Mohamed Gnono told The Associated



A vehicle and structure is damaged from fighting in the region of Tajoura, east of the Libyan capital Tripoli, Saturday, June 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Press in a telephone interview from Tripoli. "The operation was carried out with (few) losses and in less than 24 hours."

Gnono said an unspecified number of locals from the town's population had collaborated with the government forces to ensure "the success of the operation." He confirmed earlier reports that government forces had launched eight

airstrikes targeting a key LNA operations room as well as armored vehicles believed to belong to the United Arab Emirates.

A statement from government forces late Wednesday first announced the fall of Gharyan, saying they would pursue their campaign to push back Hifter "until the aggressors are purged from all areas."

Hifter's offensive on Tripoli

has been widely criticized by the U.N. and aid agencies. Hundreds have been killed in the violence, mainly combatants but also civilians, and thousands have been displaced. Earlier this week, the World Health Organization said the toll of the fighting around Tripoli had reached 739 killed and 4,407 wounded.

Hifter, backed by key regional players including

Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, claims the push on Tripoli seeks to free the city of radical militias.

For its part, the U.N.-backed government has accused Hifter of trying to establish a one-man military dictatorship.

Later on Thursday, The Libyan National Army posted a statement on Facebook denying their rivals were in full control of Gharyan and claiming there was still some fighting underway. "We faced treason from certain people" in the town, Gen. Al-Mabrouk al-Ghazawy was quoted as saying about the LNA's losses.

Virginie Collombier, a political science professor with the European University Institute, said the fall of Gharyan is "a major blow" to Hifter's forces, which have ceased to make any military advances for almost six weeks.

"After almost three months, not only has Hifter not managed to get control of Tripoli but he is also losing now the very first city that he had captured," she told the AP. □



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## Twin attacks target police in Tunis; IS takes responsibility



People are prevented to enter a security area after an explosion in Tunis, Thursday June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

**By BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**  
**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Twin suicide bombings targeting security forces struck Tunisia's capital on Thursday, killing a patrol officer and injuring at least eight people.

Tunisia has been struck repeatedly by terror attacks, threatening the country's relative political stability in the region. Thursday's bombings came as the country's 92-year-old president, who had been re-

leased from a brief hospitalization less than a week ago, was rushed again to the hospital after being struck with a "serious illness." The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks through its Amaq news agency. It was unclear whether it was an opportunistic claim.

One attacker detonated explosives in a busy commercial district near the French embassy shortly before 11 a.m., apparently targeting a police patrol. One of the officers died from his injuries, and another was injured along with three bystanders.

At nearly the same time, a second bomber struck at an entrance to the anti-terrorism brigade on the outskirts of the city. Four officers were hospitalized with injuries. □





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## Widodo seals 2nd term as Indonesia leader after court battle

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesia's top court Thursday rejected a losing presidential candidate's allegations of massive and systematic election fraud, sealing a second term for Joko Widodo, who in fending off the rising power of Islamists has drifted toward authoritarian tactics.

The Constitutional Court, which took a marathon nine hours to publicly read its reasoning on the case, said the legal team of the losing candidate, former Gen. Prabowo Subianto, had failed to prove allegations that included millions of fake voters and biased state institutions. The court's ruling is final.

Thousands of police and soldiers were deployed to boost security in Jakarta as authorities strove to avoid a repeat of deadly riots last month. Pro-Subianto protesters who had gath-



Incumbent Indonesian President Joko Widodo, left, and his running mate Ma'ruf Amin wave to reporters, in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

ered near the court melted away around dusk as the broadcast of proceedings

on a TV screen outside indicated their candidate's case was unsuccessful.

The official election results released last month showed Widodo won 55.5%

of the vote but also revealed a polarized electorate. Subianto, who allied himself with groups that want Islamic rather than secular law to prevail in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, won big victories in conservative provinces.

The legal challenge's failure was widely expected after documents filed with the court showed that much of the evidence for the alleged fraud in the April 17 election was printouts of tangentially related news articles from online sites of varying quality.

The evidence purporting to show police bias in favor of Widodo included allegations from an anonymous Twitter account. The hearings were broadcast on national TV and showed the testimony of some witnesses disintegrating under questioning from the panel of judges. □

## NKorea urges South to stop mediating between North, US

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea said Thursday South Korea must stop trying to mediate between Pyongyang and Washington.

The North's Foreign Ministry also repeated its demand that the United States must work out mutually acceptable proposals to salvage a deadlocked nuclear negotiations by the end of December.

The statement was an apparent expression of displeasure with Seoul and Washington over stalled

nuclear diplomacy. There have been no public official meetings between the United States and North Korea since the breakdown of the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi in February.

The Hanoi summit fell apart after Trump rejected Kim's calls for sweeping sanctions relief in return for a limited disarmament step. The summit's collapse was a blow to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who shuttled between

Washington and Pyongyang to facilitate talks between the countries.

Talks of revival of diplomacy, however, has flared after Trump and Kim recently exchanged personal letters. Moon said earlier this week that U.S. and North Korean officials were holding "behind-the-scene talks" to try to set up a third summit between Trump and Kim.

Moon also said talks between the two Koreas have been under way through unspecified "various channels." □



U.S. flag is seen as protesters hold a rally demanding the peace on the Korean peninsula and to stop sanctions on North Korea, ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's scheduled visit near the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

Associated Press



# Migrants face violence as US makes them wait in Mexico

By CEDAR ATTANASIO  
Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico  
(AP) — Roberto Escalona

Moreno says he witnessed a double murder on the street last week near the hostel where is staying. The Cuban immigrant has been assaulted, and his friends have been shaken down by police, he says.

Moreno, 22, is among more than 30,000 migrants who are pressing for asylum in the U.S. but are stuck in Mexico's drug- and gang-infested border cities under Trump administration policies intended to stem the flow. They say the months of waiting are increasingly putting them in harm's way. "It's not safe here," Moreno said, less than an hour after witnessing the deadly shooting in Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Cartel violence in Juarez is down from its height five years ago, but it is still one of the most dangerous cities in the world, with gangs vying for control of drug trafficking routes.

Juarez, with a population of 1.4 million, recorded 1,259 homicides in 2018, or more than four times the death toll in New York City, which has six times as many people. Other border cities, such as Tijuana, are murderous places as well.

Last week, a man was



In this Jan. 25, 2019, file photo, a migrant sits with his children as they wait to hear if their number is called to apply for asylum in the United States, at the border in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press

gunned down in Juarez at his child's preschool graduation, and an unrelated 4-year-old girl died in the attack, according to local reports. Federal police recently freed three kidnapping victims, including a Honduran migrant, from a home filled with alleged gang members.

People hoping to enter the U.S. are forced to wait south of the border because of twin U.S. policies — one sharply limiting the number of asylum applications per day that border stations accept, the other requiring many of those who have

applied to bide their time in Mexico while their cases make their way through the legal system.

The U.S. government is expanding the remain-in-Mexico policy to Nuevo Laredo this week, raising new concerns about bloodshed. Nuevo Laredo is in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, a place so violent that the U.S. State Department bars most travel there by government employees under a level-four warning — the highest degree of concern.

"Violent crime, such as murder, armed robbery,

carjacking, kidnapping, extortion, and sexual assault, is common," the warning reads. "Gang activity, including gun battles and blockades, is widespread. Armed criminal groups target public and private passenger buses as well as private automobiles traveling through Tamaulipas, often taking passengers hostage and demanding ransom payments."

Migrants who are fleeing violence in their home countries are dismayed that they are being forced to wait in Mexican border cities with similar dangers.

The remain-in-Mexico policy is drawing opposition from American asylum officers, who filed a court brief this week arguing that Mexico isn't safe for asylum seekers.

"Despite professing a commitment to protecting the rights of persons seeking asylum, the Mexican government has proven unable to provide this protection," they said.

The debate over immigration in the U.S. flared over the past few days with the publication of a chilling photo of a drowned father and daughter in the Rio Grande; an outcry over reports of hungry and unwashed migrant children in a Texas detention center; more turnover inside the Homeland Security Department; and debate on Capitol Hill over \$4.6 billion in border aid.

Moreno waited in Juarez for two months just for the opportunity to present himself to U.S. officials in El Paso and apply for asylum. Now he is back in Juarez, where many Cubans stay in a cluster of hostels on the northeastern edge, one of the most violent neighborhoods in the city.

He said he was having breakfast outside with some other Cuban migrants when they saw two men run past on the other side of the street. □

# Argentina announces large seizure of weapons



This photo provided by the Argentine Ministry of Security, shows a cache of weapons seized by authorities at an undisclosed location in Argentina, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentine authorities have seized about 1,000 guns and hundreds of explosives from an international criminal gang, officials said Thursday, calling it the largest seizure of its kind in the country's history. The security ministry said in a statement that the weapons were smuggled into Argentina from the U.S. and Europe. The magazines were purchased in Spain and the Netherlands and sent in containers aboard ships. They were then sent by land to neighboring Brazil and Paraguay. Officials have not identified the

gang involved.

"This is not only important for Argentina, but it's also important to reduce violence in Paraguay and Brazil because many of these weapons are used by drug dealers and the big Brazilian cartels that manage the drug-dealing business using machine guns and all sorts of heavy weapons," Security Minister Patricia Bullrich said.

About 50 raids on homes, offices and armories were also carried out nationwide and 17 people have been detained in an operation aided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The seized firearms include AK-47s, Browning machine guns and more than 30,000 bullets of various calibers. Authorities also confiscated about \$166,000, mines, night vision goggles and a 20mm anti-aircraft gun.

U.S. Homeland Security said in a statement that it will announce the results of an international weapons trafficking operation with partners in Argentina and Brazil on Friday in Miami.

It said a criminal organization was trafficking large quantities of weapons parts and accessories from the U.S. to Argentina and Brazil. □



## LOCAL



## The first Active Shooter Awareness Seminar held in Aruba Organized by AAA, in cooperation with JetBlue Airlines and Aruba Police Force



**ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) in collaboration with JetBlue Airlines and Aruba Police Force recently organized for the first time an Active Shooter Awareness Seminar with over 240 participants. The purpose of the 2 sessions was to raise awareness on Active Shooter incidents and to equip participants with tips and advise on how to survive such an incident.**

During the morning session, which was attended by local School principals, JetBlue Airlines presented their "Safe Schools Program" and focused on the effects of an Active Shooter event at schools. A survivor of a tragic school shooting in USA shared her survival story and elaborated on the Foundation she started after her experience. Aruba Police Force (KPA) shared how KPA prepares itself to respond to such incidents and valuable tips on how schools can have their staff and students prepare plans to save lives in the case of such an event.

The afternoon session was geared towards the Airport Community and included a Table Top Exercise led by JetBlue Airlines. Although an airport incident was depicted, the lessons learned apply in any work/life environment. KPA shared their

experiences from the recent Active Shooter drill at the Airport and stressed on the importance of continuous preparedness trainings. KPA also shared valuable tips on how to react and act during such an event. AAA CEO Mr. James Fazio indicated that Aruba Airport is one of the busiest airports in the Caribbean region, with 29 different airlines contributing in processing over 2.5 million passengers per year and for this reason it's the airport's duty to protect users of this critical infrastructure. An Active Shooter incident often times happens in a few seconds and it will take a few minutes before Police can reach the area. According to Fazio it's crucial that the Airport community is made aware and prepared for such incidents, however unlikely we perceive these to be. Fazio applauds the cooperation amongst entities that recently organized the Active Shooter drill at the Airport as these types of trainings create awareness amongst all within the Airport community.

"Safety is our number one value, and we consider it important to collaborate with our business partners and members of the community to teach prevention and the appropriate response in a dangerous scenario," said Mr. Jose

Figueroa, JetBlue Director of Corporate Security for international markets. "Awareness and preparation are key to ensuring safety, and we're grateful to the Government of Aruba, the Aruba Police Force, Aruba Airport Authority and our crewmembers and partners for helping us to offer the "Safe Schools Program" in Aruba."

KPA's Chief of Police Mr. Andrew Hoo indicated



that although KPA's focus has mainly been on providing valuable prevention presentations at several schools and other entities, it was the second time KPA conducted such a drill and the first time that KPA

participated in a seminar geared at response and intervention. "The recent drills at the airport and the local school have provided our Rapid Response team with valuable lessons," according to Hoo. □

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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort



**EAGLE BEACH** —Recently, Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

David and Judith Bryson from Connecticut were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors. They have been coming to the island for 20 consecutive years. According to the Bryson's they love the island for its beautiful beaches, lovely weather and great restaurants

Heyliger thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. The ceremony was held at the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □

### Travel Tips

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ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).



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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at La Quinta Beach Resort

**EAGLE BEACH** —Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were **David & Laura Charnitsky** residents of Coconut Creek Florida, who have been coming to the island for 24 consecutive years.

De Cuba together with General Manager of La Quinta Beach Resort, Mrs. Enrika 'Ika' Arends and Ingrid, presented the certificate to the honorees, and handed over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □





## 'Take your car off the beaten track to meet our monuments and their stories'



**ORANJESTAD** - The mix of cultures in Aruba is very visible in its architecture as -like in all cultures-, monuments reflect your history and your people. If you take the chance to leave the beach for a little while and take your car off the beaten track you will be surprised what you see. Anne Witsenburg is director of the Monumentfund Aruba and points out precisely why a monumental trip should not lack in your vacation's itinerary.

The fund owns 12 monuments, out of the 36 protected monuments in the island. "But there are over 300 more monuments on the list to be protected and of course we dream

to see that become reality as soon as possible." The international guidelines that apply for monuments decide whether it will be a protected monument or not. "The building or object needs to be at least 50 years old, a special value in architecture or to history or to the people of Aruba is required and there has to be a certain uniqueness. If it was changed too much throughout time or there are already any of the same kind it is a no go."

### Useless islands

There is a difference between the islands when it comes to monuments, as Witsenburg explains. "That goes back to their history. Curacao used to be a very

wealthy island where many -mainly Dutch- merchants lived close together and that is the reason you find this typical colonial Dutch style buildings packed in certain areas nowadays. They are celebrating 20 years of Unesco heritage this year. Then scattered around the rest of the island you will see the smaller country houses." Aruba and Bonaire were called the useless islands in the colonial time, so any Indian willing to live here was given a small piece of land to build his home. "That is the reason you find all these typical small houses scattered around the island. We actually have the same amount of monuments as Curacao though way smaller."

### Magic local touch

Some of the monuments owned by the Monument fund Aruba are the light house, town hall, water tanks in both Oranjestad and San Nicolas. "We are wealthy in different styled monuments and my suggestion is to discover this world outside of the tourist zone. The book Monumental Guide comes in handy as there are three maps inside that guide you to the monuments and tell you about them. But there are also possibilities to have your personal people guide. And the best is that I can almost guarantee you the magic of the local touch when you bump into an authentic cunucu house (country house) and talk to the owners. They will proudly share their family history with you."

### Outside inspiration

The Monument fund acquires or buys monuments and restores them back into their former glory. Then they rent it out. "That sounds easy, but it is incredibly complex as most monuments have multiple owners due to the fact that inheritances are split and all need to decide upon the selling." They cooperate with the government



office of monuments because they set the rules of what you can and cannot do to a protected monument. "We also have the task to maintain the buildings which is an ongoing process. The wind, the salt in the air and the sun that not only burns human bodies but also buildings are huge challenges. Next to that we do education, create awareness and maintain public relations about our monuments."

The office of the Monument fund is actually located in a monument itself. The building is beautiful and has a tropical style. "This house goes back to the 1920's when it was built as a vacation house by Aruban entrepreneur Croes. He and his family came here to the outdoors as in those times there was only cunucu (countryside) here. They had big parties and enjoyed leisure time with family and friends." Richer Arubans at that time looked outwards for architecture inspiration as that was considered chic, Witsenburg explains. Either to the US (art deco style like the water tower in San Nicolas), Holland (Dutch colonial style) or Colombia/Venezuela. "This house is inspired by a villa around Cartagena, Colombia. The ideas mostly came from the wives", she says laughing.

### Sustainable driven

Sustainability is a big thing to the Monument fund Aruba. Witsenburg: "Obviously to restore old buildings and not destroy them to build new ones is already sustainable in itself. Then we have the technical sustainability as in using the right materials and techniques but also the social sustainability. That includes looking at the non-tangible part of heritage: the stories to be told, the music to be played, the dinners that were cooked in the places we try to restore. That keeps it alive."

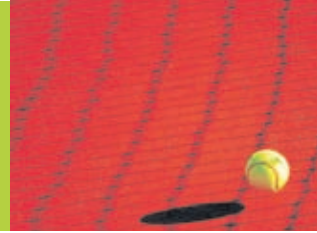
Most of our monuments are meant to be lived in so we would like to reintroduce the joy of living in a monument. We work together with private companies to look into that." In their office they installed solar panels, use LED lightning and recently implemented an electrical charging point for electric vehicles.

The Monument fund Aruba is open every day from Monday to Friday from 8 to 5. You are more than welcome to ask for information, guiding and help. For more information check their Facebook page [stiching monumenten fonds aruba](https://www.facebook.com/monumentenfondsaruba) and the website <http://www.monumentenfondsaruba.com>. □





# SPORTS



In this April 21, 2019, file photo, Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, top, dunks as Los Angeles Clippers guard Landry Shamet defends during the second half in Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Analysis: It's Knicks-Nets in Big Apple free agency battle

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It's been seven years since the Nets crossed the Hudson River and took up residence in the Knicks' city.

A real rivalry might finally arrive Sunday.

Rarely relevant at the same time on the basketball court, the Knicks and Nets are front and center in the free agency race, two of the teams best positioned to make a splash when the market opens.

Both can afford two top players, with hopes of landing not only a Kevin Durant or Kyrie Irving, but possibly both. New York, home of the worst team in the NBA in two of the last seasons, could be the epicenter of the league in early July.

After years of bad play, bad trades and often bad basketball, at least one team in the city could look really good in a few days.

**Continued on Page 23**

# FIRST TAKE



## Lashley fires career-best 63 as first alternate to lead Rocket Mortgage

Nate Lashley acknowledges the crowd after his birdie putt on the 18th green during the first round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament, Thursday, June 27, 2019, in Detroit.

Associated Press  
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# Nate Lashley shoots 63 to take Rocket Mortgage Classic lead

By **LARRY LAGE**  
AP Sports Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — Nate Lashley tried and failed to qualify for a spot in the Rocket Mortgage Classic earlier this week.

He chose to stay in Detroit, hoping to slip into the field as an alternate.

Good call.

Lashley birdied the final three holes and five of the last six for a 9-under 63 and the first-round lead Thursday at the PGA Tour's first event in Detroit.

The 36-year-old Lashley had the lowest score in his PGA Tour career, a day after finding out he would have a chance to compete at Detroit Golf Club. Ranked 353rd in the world and No. 132 in the FedEx Cup standings, Lashley's only top-10 finish in his two-year PGA Tour career is a tie for eighth in the Puerto Rico Open in February.

"Hopefully, can play well this week and continue to play well and lock up my card," he said.

Ryan Armour and Nick Watney were at stroke back at 64. Chez Reavie, the Travelers Championship winner last week in Connecticut, and Charles Howell III and Stewart Cink topped the group of seven players at 65.

Dustin Johnson, the second-ranked player in the



**Nate Lashley eyes his putt on the 18th green during the first round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament, Thursday, June 27, 2019, in Detroit.**

Associated Press

world, opened with a 71. Gary Woodland had a 73 in his first start since winning the U.S. Open, an accom-

plishment that altered his career and schedule.

"I definitely didn't get prepared as much as I like

to, but that's no excuse," Woodland said.

Lashley made the most of the opportunity with a bogey-free round, taking advantage of scoring opportunities during a day with little wind on a short course with receptive greens. He opened with a birdie and had three more on the front nine before the closing spree.

Lashley, who is from Nebraska, had a knee injury last year that stunted his rookie season on the PGA Tour after 17 events.

"I'm just trying to play relaxed and confident golf," he said.

There's no chance Lashley can afford to be comfortable with the early lead.

Johnson provided proof the Donald Ross-designed course can present a challenge. The only top-10 player in the field ranked in the middle of the pack off the tee, missing five of 14 fairways. He was among the worst on approach shots, leaving him 33-plus feet away from the pin on average.

Johnson missed the green to the left on the 175-yard, par-3 fifth and his ball bounced into a bunker, forcing him to stand in the rough while squatting to get the ball out of the sand. "It ended up in a terrible spot," he said.

Four shots later, Johnson had his first of two double bogeys. He was 2 over at No. 11 before rallying with three birdies over the last five holes.

"I think come out (Friday) morning and shooting a good score, I'll be back in the tournament," he said after finishing the first round tied for 101st.

Woodland was strong late in the first round after failing to maintain any momentum from winning the first major of his career. He tied a U.S. Open record by making just four bogeys over four rounds at Pebble Beach and had that many bogeys in a four-hole stretch at Detroit Golf Club and a total of six. After falling to 5 over through 11 holes, he had four birdies over the last six to finish with a 73.

Reavie, meanwhile, picked up where he left off after winning for his first win in 11 years. He had a 4-under 32 on the front nine and was 3 under on the back, including an eagle on the 582-yard, par-5 17th.

"I'm entering the week as if I didn't win last week," Reavie said. "I'm out here grinding as I do every week and looking forward to the challenge. I like old-school golf courses. I like being able to work it off slopes on the greens." □

# Trump orders new policy about military academies, pro sports

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump has signed a presidential memorandum ordering the Pentagon to develop a new policy to allow athletes attending the nation's military academies to play professional sports immediately after graduating.

The memo says student athletes graduating from the academies and Reserve Officers' Training Corps should be able to defer their military service obligations due to the "short window of time" they have to "take advantage of their athletic talents during which playing professional sports is realistically possible." It gives the de-

fense secretary 120 days to develop a plan.

Trump had said in May that he was considering the change while presenting the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the U.S. Military Academy football team. Trump's own Defense Department in 2017 rescinded a policy that allowed the best athletes from the military's service academies to go straight to the pros upon graduation instead of having to first serve on active duty.

That meant they had to serve two years of active duty before applying for reserve status to pursue a career in professional sports. Then-Defense Secretary



**President Donald Trump gestures as he walks to Marine One across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, June 26, 2019, for the short trip to Andrews Air Force Base en route to Japan for the G-20 summit.**

Associated Press

Jim Mattis, in an April 2017 memo, said that the service academies "exist to develop future officers," and that graduates would serve as "full-fledged military officers carrying out the normal work and career expectations" of someone who received an education at the taxpayers' expense. Several Navy football players have gone on to have success in the NFL, most notably 1963 Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach, a quarterback for the Midshipmen from 1962-64. After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, he joined the Dallas Cowboys in 1969 and guided the team to a pair of Super Bowl victories. □



# MLS looks toward Asia as next major market for talent

By TIM BOOTH

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) —

Greg Anderson was supposed to be bound for Orlando, Florida, and the MLS player combine in his role as vice president of soccer operations for the Vancouver Whitecaps. He was hours from going to the airport when a phone call changed his itinerary.

Instead of east, Anderson headed west. First, he landed in South Korea to meet with the parents of promising 22-year-old midfielder Inbeom Hwang. Then it was even further west to Dubai to meet with Hwang himself and help finalize a deal to bring him to MLS.

By the time Anderson caught a flight from Dubai to Toronto and then back to Vancouver, he'd gone around the world to land the Whitecaps a designated player.

It was a worthwhile effort. But it's also a rare story.

Despite the efforts of Anderson and counterparts around the league, MLS has yet to make extensive inroads into the Asian market to convince top talent that playing in North America can be the next move in their careers.

"There are certainly players there, national team level players, who could come in and start and play in our league," said Chris Henderson, Seattle's vice president of soccer. "I think the aspirations, at least in Japan, for those players is to go to Europe. Korea, they want to go to Europe. Because that is what's on TV and they're seeing all the games at the highest level."

Currently only three internationals from Japan or South Korea are playing in MLS. Hwang and Seattle's Kim Kee-hee are the South Koreans, while Toronto's Tsubasa Endoh was born and raised in Japan before moving to the U.S. following the Fukushima earthquake. Zachary Herivaux of New England and Ken Krolc of Montreal were both born in Japan but mostly grew up elsewhere.

MLS has been highly successful recruiting players out of South America and

it's starting to shed the reputation of being a retirement league for Europeans.

But Asia, and specifically Japan and South Korea, are markets producing solid international players, yet MLS has mostly been an afterthought there.

That could be changing. Hwang believes there are a growing number of players considering MLS as a potential springboard to opportunities in Europe.

"Obviously my ultimate goal is to go to a higher level and go to one of the European league and I knew that to achieve that I have to have many eyes watching me playing and I thought that MLS is where there are many people watching," Hwang said through an interpret-

er. "There are many eyes, scouts are watching the games. I thought it would be right fit, right league to achieve my goal."

There are also the cultural adjustments. A long-held belief is that Asian players would be most comfortable playing either in the west — Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles — or in markets with large Asian communities like New York and Toronto.

"It wasn't the most important aspect but it was definitely very, very positive aspect there is a strong Korean community in the city because I heard from other players who are playing overseas, some of the players are having a really tough time," Hwang said.

"There is not many Korean



In this Saturday, April 13, 2019 file photo, Seattle Sounders midfielder Kim Kee-Hee, left, kicks the ball away from Toronto FC forward Jozy Altidore (17) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Seattle.

Associated Press

people around. Here there is a very helpful Korean community."

Henderson and Anderson said the primary challenge

for MLS is exposure overseas. Most Asian players are going to be more familiar with the Premier League or Bundesliga. □

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# Yankees homer again, beat Blue Jays on Torres' RBI in 9th

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gleyber Torres lined a game-winning single in the ninth inning and the New York Yankees hit two more homers to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-7 Wednesday.

Didi Gregorius and DJ LeMahieu connected as the Yankees extended their major league record to 29 straight games with a home run. The AL East leaders overcame two homers and a double by Lourdes Gurriel Jr., plus an early 5-0 deficit, to finish a power-packed 9-1 homestand.

Now, they'll head straight from Yankee Stadium to England, where they'll enjoy two days off before playing the Boston Red Sox at London Stadium on Saturday and Sunday in the first major league games in Europe.

Zack Britton wasn't so great in giving up Cavan Biggio's RBI single in the ninth that made it 7-all. But Britton (3-1) wound up with the win to close out a three-game sweep.

Gregorius got an infield hit off Nick Kingham (3-2) with one out in the ninth, Aaron Hicks walked and Torres followed with his hit.

## INDIANS 5, ROYALS 3

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Trevor Bauer struck out a season-high 12 in 6 2/3 innings, and Cleveland beat Kansas City.

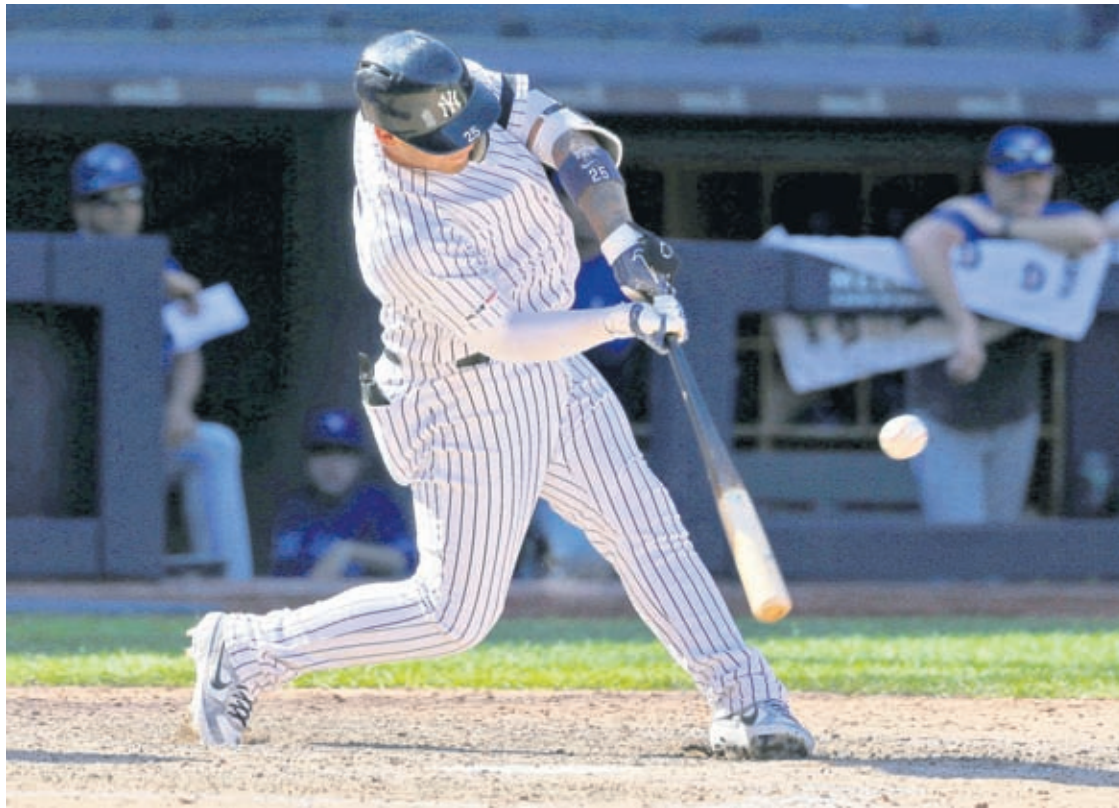
Bauer (6-6) had the 23rd double-figure strikeout game of his career and his fourth this season. The right-hander gave up one run and didn't allow a hit until rookie Humberto Arteaga singled with two outs in the fifth. Bauer matched a career high by throwing 127 pitches and held the Royals to three hits.

Jake Bauers and Tyler Naquin homered off Jakob Junis in the fourth.

Jason Kipnis, Oscar Mercado and Jordan Luplow also drove in runs for Cleveland. Francisco Lindor was 3 for 4 and scored two runs.

Junis (4-7) allowed four runs in six innings and hasn't won since May 30.

Lucas Duda homered in the ninth for Kansas City off Nick Wittgren.



New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres hits a walk-off RBI single during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Yankee Stadium, Wednesday, June 26, 2019, in New York. The Yankees defeated the Blue Jays 8-7.

Associated Press

## WHITE SOX 8, RED SOX 7

**BOSTON (AP)** — José Abreu hit a two-run homer over the Green Monster and out of Fenway Park in the ninth inning as Chicago recovered after blowing the lead in the eighth.

The White Sox had leads of 3-0, 5-2 and 6-4 before the Red Sox scored three in the eighth to take a 7-6 lead and hand Chicago closer Alex Colomé (3-1) his first blown save in 17 opportunities.

Matt Barnes (3-3) gave up three straight hits in the top of the ninth — Leury Garcia was caught stealing — including Abreu's 19th homer of the season.

Abreu had three hits and four RBIs, and Garcia also had three hits for Chicago. James McCann had an RBI single and added a solo home run against Chris Sale as Chicago pounced on the Boston starter for five runs in the first three innings.

## PADRES 10, ORIOLES 5

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Franmil Reyes hit two of San Diego's five homers, Eric Hosmer drove in four runs and the Padres finished a two-game sweep.

Greg Garcia got the long ball barrage started with a two-run drive in the second inning off Dylan Bundy (3-10). After Reyes hit a solo

shot in the third and a two-run drive in the fifth to make it 6-3, Hosmer went deep with a runner on in the sixth and Hunter Renfroe connected leading off the seventh.

It marked the 10th time this season that Baltimore yielded at least five home runs. Bundy gave up two of them and now has allowed 19 homers in 16 starts.

Jonathan Villar and Pedro Severino homered for the Orioles, who have lost 13 of 14. Baltimore owns the worst record in the majors (22-58) and the worst at home (9-30).

San Diego starter Matt Strahm (3-6) pitched six innings, allowing four runs and five hits with nine strikeouts and no walks. Craig Stammen got the last four outs for his fourth save.

## RANGERS 4, TIGERS 1

**DETROIT (AP)** — Mike Minor allowed five hits in his second complete game of the year, and Willie Calhoun, Jeff Mathis and Danny Santana homered in the fifth inning to lift Texas.

Minor (8-4) struck out seven with two walks, throwing 108 pitches in his third career complete game. He now has 12 consecutive starts allowing three runs or fewer while pitching at least five innings.

Matthew Boyd (5-6) struck out 11 for Detroit in seven innings, and he too allowed only five hits — but three of them were solo homers in the fifth. The Rangers are now a season-high eight games over .500.

Texas has won five of six, and after taking the first two games at Detroit, the Rangers have won or split each of their last nine series.

Brandon Dixon homered for Detroit's only run. The Tigers have lost six straight and 10 of 11.

## ANGELS 5, REDS 1

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Justin Bour hit two homers, Mike Trout scored the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning and Los Angeles got back above .500.

Shohei Ohtani went 3 for 3 with a walk for the Angels (41-40), who hit the halfway point of their season with six wins in nine games after this two-game interleague sweep.

Trout walked leading off the eighth and advanced on a wild pickoff throw by Raisel Iglesias (1-7). After Ohtani singled Trout to third, Cincinnati got two outs before David Fletcher hit a deep grounder to shortstop Jose Iglesias, who couldn't get off a throw while Trout scampered home.

Bour followed with an impressive three-run homer, adding it to his solo shot in the fifth for his first multi-homer game since joining the Angels.

Yasiel Puig homered in the fifth for the Reds, who lost four straight to close out their six-game road trip.

Cam Bedrosian (3-3) pitched around Justin Upton's two-base error in left field to work a scoreless eighth.

## TWINS 6, RAYS 4

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Nelson Cruz had three hits, including a go-ahead, three-run double after Tampa Bay starter Charlie Morton left in the seventh inning to lead Minnesota.

Taylor Rogers got the last four outs for his 10th save, and the Twins beat the Rays for the fifth straight time.

Cruz beat out an infield single that died in the grass halfway up the third-base line during a three-run first against Morton (8-2). His last hit was more in form, a crushed line drive off Emilio Pagan with an exit velocity of 108 mph that landed in deep center field.

The seventh-inning rally was fueled by an error on Morton. Twins starter Jake Odorizzi squandered his 3-0 lead, when Kevin Kiermaier hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Tommy Pham went deep to tie the game in the sixth. Odorizzi was removed one batter later. Trevor May (3-1) allowed a solo shot to Willy Adames in the seventh, but the momentum didn't last long for the struggling Rays. They are just 10-16 since beating the Twins 14-3 at home on May 30.

## PIRATES 14, ASTROS 2

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Josh Bell hit his 21st homer, Corey Dickerson had four hits and three RBIs, and rookie Dario Agrazal threw six strong innings to earn his first major league win as Pittsburgh routed Houston.

Bell connected off rookie Framer Valdez (3-4) for a two-run shot in the first inning and the Pirates added two runs each in the second and third to build a 6-1 lead and cruise to their fifth victory in six games. □



# Taylor and Chapman back Mengden as A's beat Cardinals 2-0

**By The Associated Press**  
**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Beau Taylor and Matt Chapman homered, and Daniel Mengden pitched six scoreless innings to lead Oakland.

Mengden (2-1) gave up four hits and struck out five for his first win since May 18 at Detroit. He took the starting rotation spot of Frankie Montas, who was suspended 80 games June 21 for testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

Yusmeiro Petit pitched the seventh, Joakim Soria the eighth and Liam Hendriks got the last three outs for his second save in four chances. Hendriks has not allowed a run in 23 of his last 25 appearances.

Oakland got its fifth shutout of the season — first on the road — and first since May 7 against Cincinnati.

Adam Wainwright (5-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings with nine strikeouts.

St. Louis was shutout for the sixth time this season, and the third time in its last 14 games.

**PHILLIES 5, METS 4, 10 INNINGS**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Jay Bruce ripped an RBI double in the bottom of the 10th inning against his former team, and Philadelphia rallied to beat reeling New York.

Mets lefty Jason Vargas tied a career high with 10 strikeouts in his first start since being fined for an expletive-filled confrontation with a reporter, but was pulled after only 77 pitches and the Phillies overcame a 4-0 deficit against New York's leaky bullpen.

Rhys Hoskins drew a walk from Stephen Nogosek (0-1), and J.T. Realmuto singled. Roman Quinn ran for Hoskins and Bruce, traded by the Mets twice in the last two years, sent a long drive over center fielder Juan Lagares' head to give Philadelphia its third straight win over New York after a seven-game losing streak.

Edgar Garcia (2-0) tossed a perfect 10th for the win. Dominic Smith and Jeff McNeil hit solo homers for the Mets, who have lost four in a row.

**ROCKIES 6, GIANTS 3**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — David Dahl hit a go-ahead grand slam in the third and drove in a career-high five runs to lead Colorado.

Dahl connected off Jeff Samardzija for his second career grand slam, with the other coming last Sept. 10 against Arizona. It marked the first grand slam ever hit by a Rockies player in San Francisco.

Dahl added an RBI single in the seventh. He had a two-run shot in the series opener.

The big swing in the series finale backed German Márquez (8-3), who immediately surrendered Pablo Sandoval's homer the next inning but won his second straight decision. Márquez allowed three runs and seven hits, struck out two and walked two over five innings. Wade Davis finished for his 11th save.

Samardzija (4-7) was tagged for five runs and three hits in five innings.

**DIAMONDBACKS 8, DODGERS 2**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Eduardo Escobar's three-run home gave Arizona a four-run lead before Los Angeles recorded an out, and the Diamondbacks cruised to the win.

The Dodgers, with the best record in the majors at 55-27, lost for just the second time — both to Arizona in the three-game series — in nine games, while Arizona finished a nine-game homestand 3-6.

Jarrold Dyson had three hits, an RBI and swiped two bases to raise his NL-leading total to 19. He also had a home run-stealing catch over the right-center field fence.

Ildemaro Vargas hit a two-run double, and pitcher Taylor Clarke (2-3) allowed two runs on three hits in five



Oakland Athletics' Beau Taylor runs the bases after hitting a solo home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Wednesday, June 26, 2019, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

innings.

The Dodgers' Cody Bellinger hit his 26th home run of the season, tying him for fourth-most before the All-Star break in franchise history.

The Diamondbacks roughed up Tony Gonsolin (0-1) right away in his major league debut.

Gonsolin got his first major league hit in his first career at-bat in the third eight starts at Triple-A Reno.

**NATIONALS 7, MARLINS 5**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Matt Adams hit a three-run homer to lead Washington.

Patrick Corbin pitched seven solid innings and snapped a four-game road losing streak. Corbin (7-5) allowed one run and three hits, walked one and struck out nine. He struck out Cesar Puella in the second inning to reach 1,000 for his career.

Trea Turner and Adam Eaton had two hits each and Anthony Rendon drove in two runs for the Nationals, who have won seven of nine.

Miami starter Zac Gallen (0-1) had allowed one hit and retired eight straight through five before Washington chased him with a four-run sixth. Washington

led 4-1 and padded their advantage with a three-run ninth against reliever Tayron Guerrero.

The Marlins rallied with four runs off reliever Javy Guerra in the ninth before Sean Doolittle struck out JT Riddle for his 17th save.

**MARINERS 4, BREWERS 2**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — J.P. Crawford drove in three runs and Wade LeBlanc struck out six in five innings to help Seattle win its third straight.

Crawford put Seattle on the board with an RBI double in the first inning and then made it 3-0 with a run-scoring triple in the second. Those runs came at the expense of Brewers right-hander Adrian Houser (2-2), who allowed three runs and four hits in two innings. Mariners opener Matt Carasiti needed just 18 pitches to get through his one inning. LeBlanc (5-2) took over in the second and kept Milwaukee off the board until Mike Moustakas led off the sixth with his 23rd home run.

LeBlanc allowed five hits and a walk in five innings. Rolenis Elias worked two scoreless innings for his 10th save. **BRVES 5, CUBS 3**  
**CHICAGO (AP)** — Dallas

Keuchel earned his first win for Atlanta, backed by Nick Markakis' three-run homer against Chicago.

Brian McCann also connected for the Braves, who won a matchup of NL division leaders for the second straight night.

Keuchel (1-1) allowed three runs and eight hits over 5 2/3 innings in his second start with Atlanta. He remained in the game following a 48-minute rain delay in the fourth.

After a long wait in free agency, the 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner signed a one-year contract with Atlanta on June 7 that pays him \$13 million.

Four relievers combined to get the final 10 outs and hold the Cubs scoreless. A.J. Minter went 1 1/3 innings for his fourth save.

Willson Contreras homered and tripled, and Kris Bryant also connected for the Cubs.

Chicago starter Yu Darvish (2-4) had his string of 10 straight no-decisions snapped with the loss. He allowed five runs on five hits in five innings. In 12 starts at Wrigley Field since signing with the Cubs prior to the 2018 season, Darvish is 0-5 with a 6.03 ERA. □





Alize Cornet of France in action during the singles match against Ons Jabeur of Tunisia during day five of the Eastbourne Open tennis tournament at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, England, Thursday June 27, 2019.

Associated Press

## Fed Cup follows Davis Cup with new tournament format

**LONDON (AP)** — The Fed Cup is following the Davis Cup with a new tournament format.

Starting next year, the women's tennis event will be a six-day final tournament in April with 12 teams playing for an \$18 million prize on clay courts in Budapest, Hungary, the International Tennis Federation said Thursday.

The ITF has already switched the Davis Cup to a similar pattern, with the first 18-team final event to be played in November in Madrid.

"We have consulted and listened to stakeholders and worked with the WTA and its Player Council to make sure the new format represents the interests of the players," ITF president David Haggerty said in a statement.

Not everyone welcomed the change.

"Good job on killing the competition just as they did with Davis Cup," France's Alize Cornet said in a sarcastic tweet with three icons of clapping hands, "and nobody even bothered to ask the opinion of the players whatsoever."

The 55th-ranked Cornet added it was "very disappointing."

The changes to the Fed Cup ease the strain on the tennis calendar by going from three weeks to two, with qualifying matches in February. The current system has a final series in November, seven months after the semifinals.

However, a new round robin stage at the final tournament means players will play more matches.

Only 10 of the 12 teams at the final tournament will have qualified on merit. Organizers will offer one team a wild card and Hungary, which hasn't played top-tier Fed Cup tennis since 2002, is guaranteed a spot as host.

"The new Fed Cup format is good for tennis and will keep tennis as a leader in women's sports on a global level," said tennis great Billie Jean King, the new ITF global ambassador and former U.S. Fed Cup player and captain.

The first two teams guaranteed to qualify are Australia and France, which will play in this year's Fed Cup final in Perth in November. □



A long shot by DC United forward Wayne Rooney gets past Orlando City goalkeeper Brian Rowe for a goal during the first period of an MLS soccer match in Washington, Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Associated Press

## Rooney scores on 70-yarder, leads United past Orlando City

**By The Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Wayne Rooney sent a 70-yard shot over the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Brian Rowe in the 10th minute and D.C. United held on for a 1-0 victory over Orlando City on Wednesday night.

Rooney took advantage of an Orlando giveaway in its attacking half, looked up to see Rowe out of his area and hammered it to the goal line.

D.C. United (8-4-6) snapped a five-game winless stretch — with four draws during the span. Orlando (5-8-3) has just two wins in its last seven games.

Bill Hamid made three saves to get his eighth shut-out of the season.

In the first matchup of the season, Rooney set up a goal and scored directly from a free kick to help D.C. United win 2-1 on March 31 in Orlando.

**TORONTO FC 3. ATLANTA UNITED 2**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Atlanta forward Pity Martinez missed a penalty kick moments in extra time after Toronto FC's Alejandro Pozuelo converted one, giving the Reds the victory over United.

Toronto defender Richie Laryea was brought down

in the box for a penalty kick, setting up Pozuelo's second goal of the game. Martinez was awarded his second penalty kick of the game when video review showed a hand ball inside the box from defender Nick DeLeon. Tsubasa Endoh scored in the first minute for Toronto (6-7-4). Martinez tied it in the 17th on his first penalty kick, and Julian Gressel gave United (8-6-2) the lead in the 22nd. Pozuelo tied it at 2 in the 27th.

**IMPACT 2, TIMBERS 1**

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Orji Okwonkwo scored twice in his first game back from a leg injury to help Montreal beat Portland.

Okwonkwo missed the last three games for Montreal (9-3-7) after the injury against Los Angeles FC on May 25. He opened the scoring in the 28th minute and broke a tie in the 66th. Tomas Conechny scored for Portland (5-8-2) in the 53rd.

The start of the games was delayed 45 minutes because of a thunderstorm.

**WHITECAPS 2, FC DALLAS 2, TIE**

**FRISCO, Texas (AP)** — Lucas Venuto scored for Vancouver in second-half stoppage time and the Whitecaps tied FC Dallas to extend their undefeated

streak to six games.

Yordy Reyna pulled Vancouver to 2-1 in the 81st. The Whitecaps (4-6-7) overcame a two-goal deficit to tie for the second straight game. Jesús Ferreira and Ryan Hollingshead scored four minutes apart early in the second half for FC Dallas (7-6-5).

**EARTHQUAKES 2, DYNAMO 0**

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — Valeri Qazaishvili scored a goal in each half in San Jose's victory over Houston. Qazaishvili opened the scoring in the 22nd minute. After San Jose played a quick corner kick, he flicked it over goalkeeper Joe Willis. In the 75th minute, Tommy Thompson sent a cross through traffic and Qazaishvili created space to slot it past Willis for his third goal of the season. San Jose (6-6-4) extended its unbeaten streak to five games. Houston (7-5-3) is winless in four games.

**UNION 1, REVOLUTION 1, TIE FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)** — Kacper Przybylko tapped in a deflected cross in the 84th minute and Philadelphia tied New England.

Brandon Bye scored in the 31st minute for New England's first goal directly from a corner kick this season. □





## KNICKS-NETS

Continued from Page 17

The Nets seem confident. The Knicks sound cautious. Game on.

Brooklyn is feeling good about its chances of winning it. Having recovered from an ill-fated trade with Boston in 2013 that cost the Nets years of high draft picks, Brooklyn has constructed a team that surprisingly made the playoffs. Even if it lets D'Angelo Russell go after an All-Star season to pursue bigger fish, there are young core pieces such as Caris LeVert, Jarrett Allen, Spencer Dinwiddie and Joe Harris, along with a player-friendly style under Kenny Atkinson that should be attractive to many players.

Forced to build slowly and small for years, the Nets appear ready to make a big move. A trade with Atlanta to shed Allen Crabbe's \$18.5 million contract for next season left the Nets in position to go for two top players, without having to gut a promising roster to do so. Throw in a well-regarded medical staff and a recently built training center with nice views of Manhattan, and the Nets have plenty to sell.

They believe someone will want to buy.

"All I can say is a team like Brooklyn, when they look at us from afar, I think we've got to give them some

credit. Because the guys that are free agents, all of them I would assume have spent the last year or two surveying the league," Nets general manager Sean Marks said.

"I mean, they know where they want to go. They know what they want to be a part of. I think our young guys have done a nice job to put themselves in that position."

The Knicks were first to signal their plans to look to free agency. During a 17-65 season — the worst in the NBA — they traded star Kristaps Porzingis to Dallas. The deal also allowed them to move the contracts of Tim Hardaway Jr. and Courtney Lee, clearing nearly \$70 million. The Knicks can easily be positioned to offer two max deals.

Now, they have to see if anyone wants them.

The allure of Madison Square Garden hasn't proven to be enough, not with the years of bad play and bad press under owner James Dolan and a series of front-office executives. The current leadership of president Steve Mills, general manager Scott Perry and coach David Fizdale hoped landing Zion Williamson would be the first step to a big summer and help interest free agents, but the lottery put them third instead of first — though they were happy to

get RJ Barrett.

At the news conference to introduce Barrett last week, the Knicks didn't exactly tell their fans to prepare for big news.

"I think we're asking them to continue to be patient," Mills said. "We laid out a plan when Scott came on board and then David joined us that we were going to build this team the right way. We were going to draft well and we were going to be diligent about how we built this team and not take any short cuts, and not follow a path."

Their path could lead them in plenty of successful directions, even if they miss out on the biggest targets. There is still a wide range of All-Star players below the top tier — including Jimmy Butler, Kemba Walker, Tobias Harris and Al Horford. If the Knicks can't or won't get any of them, there would be plenty of cap space and future first-round picks available to use in trades.

But the easiest way to make a leap is with a quick strike or two next week, and the fact that both teams can make one has the Big Apple buzzing. There was hope that a rivalry could be created when the Nets moved from New Jersey in 2012, but even with stars such as Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire in New York, and Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Deron



In this April 19, 2019, file photo, Boston Celtics' Kyrie Irving (11) shoots against Indiana Pacers' Cory Joseph (6) during the second half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

Williams in Brooklyn, it never really took off before both teams crashed.

Now appears to be the time.

"Sometimes teams are able to make those quantum leaps. Other times you've

got to not skip steps and take the slow road and continue to build," Marks said. "And I think we'll be able to make those judgments in a couple weeks' time."

On both teams. □

## Arike Ogunbowale makes go-ahead 3, Wings beat Sun 74-73

By The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Arike Ogunbowale made a late go-ahead 3-pointer and finished with 23 points to help the Dallas Wings beat the Connecticut Sun 74-73 on Wednesday night. Down 13 late in the third quarter, Connecticut opened the fourth on a 15-2 run to take a 66-63 lead.

Ogunbowale, a rookie who had 25 points on Saturday night in a loss in Las Vegas, banked in a long 3-pointer with 1:23 remaining for a 72-70 lead. Neither team scored again until Allisha Gray made two free throws

with 5.1 seconds left to give Dallas a four-point lead. Jasmine Thomas answered with a corner 3, but Gray ran out the clock at the other end.

Isabelle Harrison added 13 points for Dallas (3-6).

Alyssa Thomas scored a career-high 28 points for Connecticut (9-3). Jasmine Thomas added 19 points and 11 assists.

MYSTICS 81, SKY 74

CHICAGO (AP) — Elena Delle Donne had 22 points and seven rebounds, Ariel Atkins added 14 points, six rebounds and five steals and Washington beat Chicago. □



# 'The Office' to leave Netflix as streaming battles heat up

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Netflix is losing its most popular TV show, "The Office," in a sign of things to come as more TV and movie makers start their own streaming services and take back their offerings.

In a tweet Tuesday, Netflix said it was "sad" that NBC will no longer license "The Office" to Netflix, but added that Netflix will still have it for the next year and a half. NBCUniversal's streaming service is due to start in 2020. Starting in January 2021, the yet-unnamed NBC service will be the exclusive home in the U.S. of all nine seasons of the sitcom, which follows the hapless employees of the Dunder Mifflin paper company.

Although Netflix has been emphasizing original shows and movies, previously televised shows such as "The Office" are still popular, especially as people abandon traditional pay TV providers like cable and rely on streaming for such shows. "The Office" was the most viewed show on Netflix in 2018, streamed for over 52 billion minutes, according to Nielsen. That equates to nearly 15 hours for each of Netflix's 58.5 million U.S. subscribers. "Friends" was No. 2 and "Greys Anatomy" was No. 3.

Producers of such shows



In this Feb. 22, 2009, file photo shoppers watch the television show "The Office" as they compare wide screens on display at Costco in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

have been happy for the extra revenue they get for licensing shows to Netflix and similar services. But those partners are morphing into competitors as content makers like NBCUniversal, Disney and WarnerMedia create their own services to vie for Netflix's viewers. Apple is also building its own streaming service with original shows from Oprah and Steven Spielberg.

These content companies are hoping to build viable streaming businesses — though it's not clear how much revenue they'll get from them at first. For that

reason, these companies have to weigh whether it's worth losing revenue from the likes of Netflix in the short run.

Disney, which is launching its own service by the end of the year, has told investors that it expects a \$150 million operating loss for the fiscal year ending in September because of the forgone licensing revenue. And WarnerMedia reportedly got \$100 million for Netflix to license "Friends" for 2019 alone, money it will lose if it takes the show back for its service as expected.

Owners of TV shows and

movies typically license their videos to third-party services for a certain amount of time. Netflix's licensing deal for "The Office" is set to expire in 2020. NBCUniversal bought the rights back to use on its own service beginning in January 2021.

NBCUniversal did not disclose financial terms, though published reports say NBCUniversal bid \$100 million per year for five years to keep the show in-house, more than what Netflix and others were offering. It's an internal bid in which the streaming business will acquire the rights

from another division, the Universal studio.

Experts say the new services, except perhaps Disney's, are not likely to draw the numbers that Netflix has spent years building, as consumers suffer streaming fatigue. Netflix has 139 million paid subscribers worldwide.

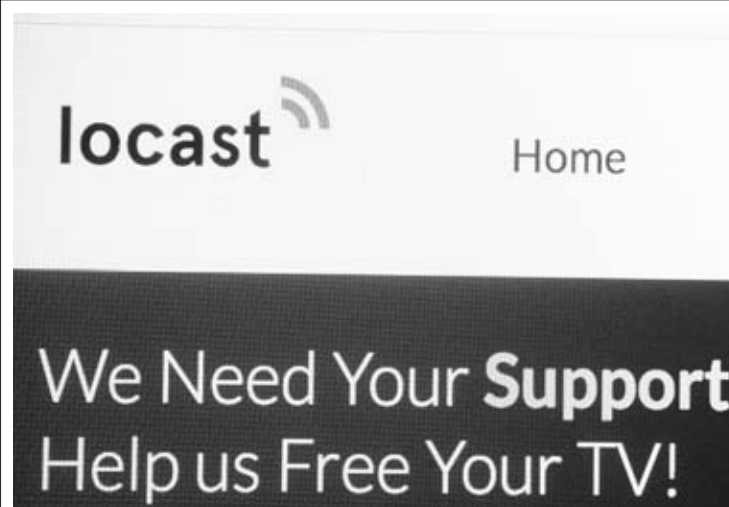
The shift will be pricey for customers, too. Those who already pay \$13 a month for Netflix or \$6 for Hulu for their most popular plans might be wary about shelling out for other monthly services.

Loup Ventures analyst Gene Munster said he believes there will be an increase of people experimenting, trying out a service for a month or two and then canceling.

Eventually "people may simply have three or four offerings they pay \$10 a month for," he said. "We may get there over time, but over the next one or two years people are going to be more finicky."

Ultimately, the services that win will be the services that invest the most in original content — or buying back their own, said Brian Wieser, global president of business intelligence at GroupM.

"It is just a function how much investment everyone is willing to make," he said. "The buy in for being meaningful is \$5 billion, and that's just the buy in." □



In this Jan. 28, 2019, file photo the Locast website is displayed on a computer screen in New York.

Associated Press

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — AT&T, the owner of DirecTV, is backing a free streaming

service as a hedge against losing broadcast channels in disputes over fees. TV subscribers are increasingly finding the channels

## DirecTV owner backs free streaming service Locast as hedge

they pay for blacked out because channel owners and the cable or satellite companies such as DirecTV can't agree on fees. Such fights can drag on for months and block viewers from the Oscars, the Super Bowl and other events.

AT&T said Thursday that it donated \$500,000 to Locast, a non-profit organization that streams broadcast channels for free. It's also offering access to Locast through DirecTV and its U-verse cable service.

This option could undercut

threats by the station owners to pull channels during disputes. Customers missing channels like ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox could also use a digital antenna. Neither Locast nor an antenna would help if the blacked-out channel is a cable network like Comedy Central or ESPN.

The donation is a pittance for AT&T, with \$19.4 billion in profit last year. But it's significant for Locast, which depends on donations and spends about \$100,000 to launch each new market.

It's now in 13 cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Cable companies have pushed back against the rising fees demanded by owners of TV stations and cable channels as viewership shifts online. Those fees get passed down to the customer.

AT&T has found itself on both sides of these fights, as it's both a TV provider and a media company as the owner of networks including HBO, TBS and CNN. □



# Cut-rate prices online: shoppers' win, businesses lose

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A bride-to-be looking for a gown online can find dresses with trains and lace for well under \$300. Go into a local bridal shop, and the average price will stretch into four figures, taking some shoppers by surprise.

That kind of price disparity puts small businesses at a big disadvantage. Whether they sell to consumers or to other companies, owners struggle with customers' perceptions of what a product or service should cost, even if those expectations are unrealistic. Online competition — not just from Amazon, but from retailers and service providers of all sizes — can force owners to keep absorbing their rising costs rather than pass along the increases to customers. The problem is exacerbated by the Trump administration's 25% tariffs on thousands of imported items. Even wealthy customers balk at the higher prices.

Cut-rate prices on websites that sell wedding dresses direct from China put pressure on Ann Campeau, who owns four bridal shops. She has had customers come in expecting to get a dress at a price similar to what they saw for a low-end gown online.

"They think, if I go to a store with a \$500 budget, I can get what I want. That's not even my wholesale cost," says Campeau, whose shops include Strut in Tempe, Arizona, and Long Beach, California, and Garnet & Grace in Whittier and Hayward, California.

Bridal shops sell dresses at the manufacturer's suggested retail price, similar to prices at auto dealerships. And since many gowns are made in China, they're being hit by 25% tariffs.

"I don't think our industry can afford to raise our prices without losing most of our customers to online sales," Campeau says.

A study published last year by Albert Cavallo, a Harvard Business School marketing professor, found that price changes across the



In this Friday, June 21, 2019, photo Ann Campeau, right, owner of Strut Bridal, fits a new dress on inventory manager Stefanie Zuniga at her shop in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

U.S. retailing industry have become more frequent over the last decade because of online competition. According to the study, the amount of time merchandise was sold at regular prices, excluding sales and temporary discounts, fell to approximately 3.65 months during 2014-2017 from 6.7 months in 2008-2010. Over that time, online and mail order sales exploded, rising to a 14.5% share of retail sales from 5.5%, according the Commerce Department.

To survive, small businesses need a way to differentiate themselves from competitors who have dramatically low prices; for example, bridal shops can turn buying a wedding gown into a special occasion.

"We provide an experience that some women still value," says Campeau, who's been in business for nine years.

Prospective clients have told Akiva Goldstein that big companies can quote them better rates for information technology services like his, and within minutes. But clients may not

be aware of what their IT needs and goals are, and whether they will get the service they want from a big player, says Goldstein, owner of New York-based OnsiteIn60. In such cases, he has to explain in detail why they're better off paying a higher price for his kind of service.

"You can't make a business decision if you haven't been educated properly," he says.

The internet, by making so much information available, has given consumers and business customers more power, says Charles Lindsey, a marketing professor at the University at Buffalo's School of Management, part of the State University of New York.

"It has changed not only the way we shop, but also the way we think about the marketplace and businesses and how consumers interact with businesses," he says. "B2B (business-to-business transactions) is being affected in many cases by the same dynamics."

The shift in power forces business owners to develop new strategies to preserve

sales and profits.

"We will often spend weeks crunching numbers to decide if we should adjust our prices by just a few percentage points to keep up with online competition or stay where we are and ultimately lose business," says Will Munroe, director of e-commerce for Rug Studio, a retailer that operates online and at four stores in Texas. He's found that many online shoppers peruse the prices on Google's shopping site and sort the rugs they find by price.

"If we aren't the lowest price, then it is very likely we'll lose that customer," Munroe says.

The retailer has also changed its merchandise mix, offering more rugs that can be used indoors as well as outdoors — while they tend to be cheaper than strictly indoor rugs, their quality has improved in recent years and they attract buyers who want a lower price.

Pricing is an ongoing balancing act, says Nikki Corbett, owner of Precise, an editing and proofreading service based in Climax,

North Carolina.

"I am constantly aware of the marketplace and how my pricing matches up to competitors as well as what the market will bear," Corbett says.

But Corbett has also learned that clients who balk at her rates and turn to one of her competitors were likely to be difficult or short-term customers. She finds that despite prospective clients' quest for lower prices, those who are the most loyal are often willing to pay more to get good service.

Customers at Gerald Olesker's lighting company include wealthy homeowners who can afford to pay high prices for lighting systems, but, he says, "they are just as careful with those dollars as any wise consumer." And Olesker, owner of ADG Lighting in Agora Hills, California, has seen those customers become more frugal during this quarter as they see tariffs driving up prices.

"There may be a bit more tolerance for price fluctuation among wealthy consumers but there is a limit and when we reach that limit, it impacts us," he says. To preserve his profits, Olesker is doing more work for corporations. While he has had a good business with hotels, he's now branching out into lighting for retailers.

"I have to have another revenue stream," he says. □



**Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on ?**

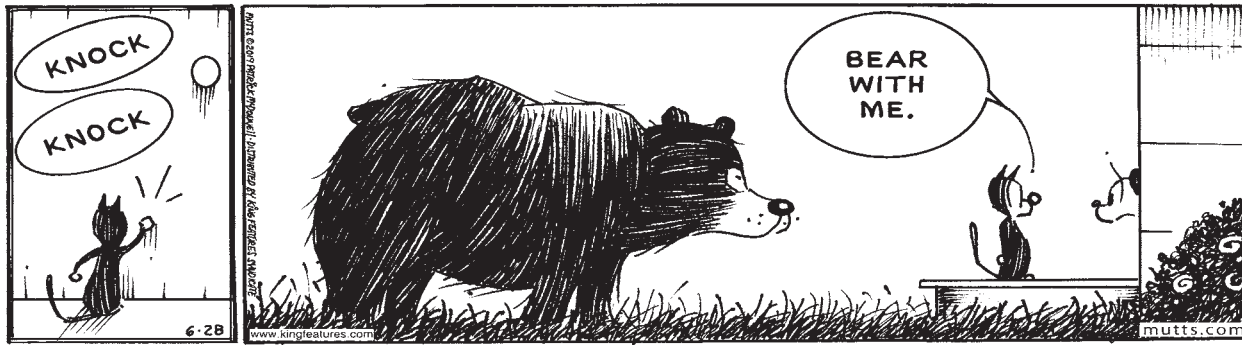
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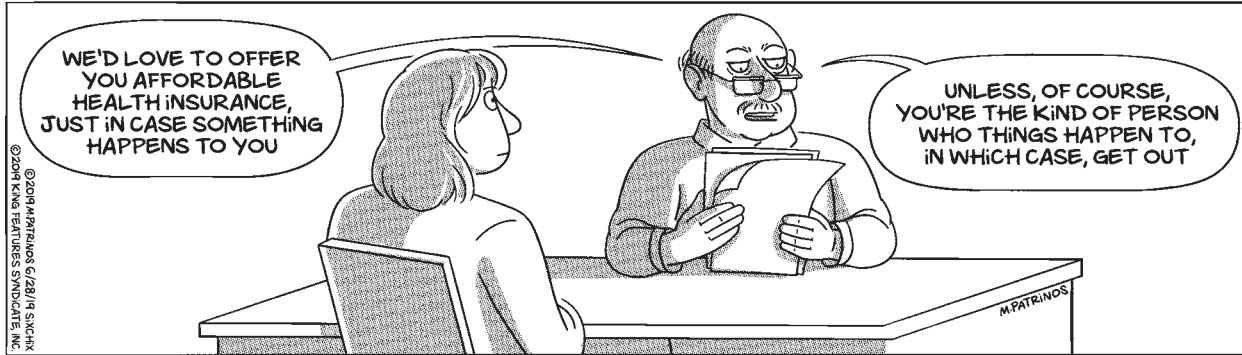
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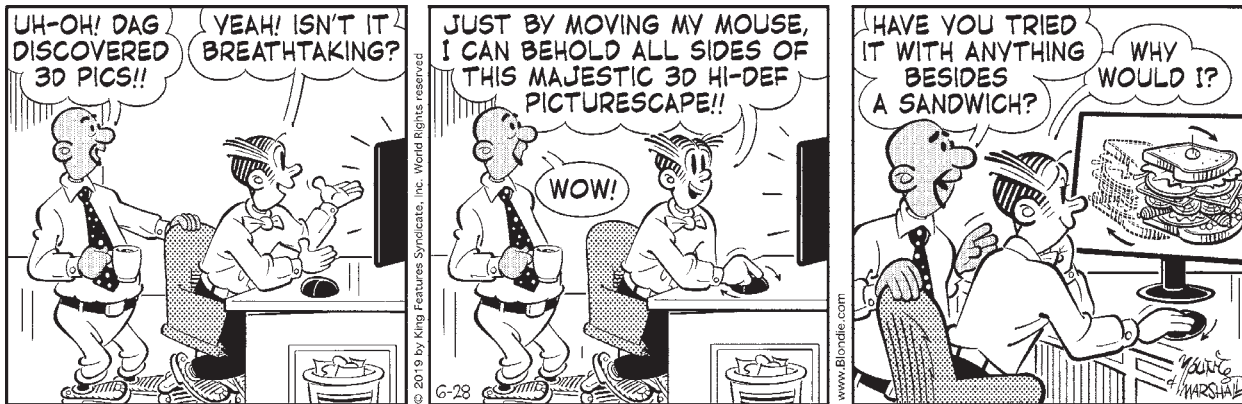
**Mutts**



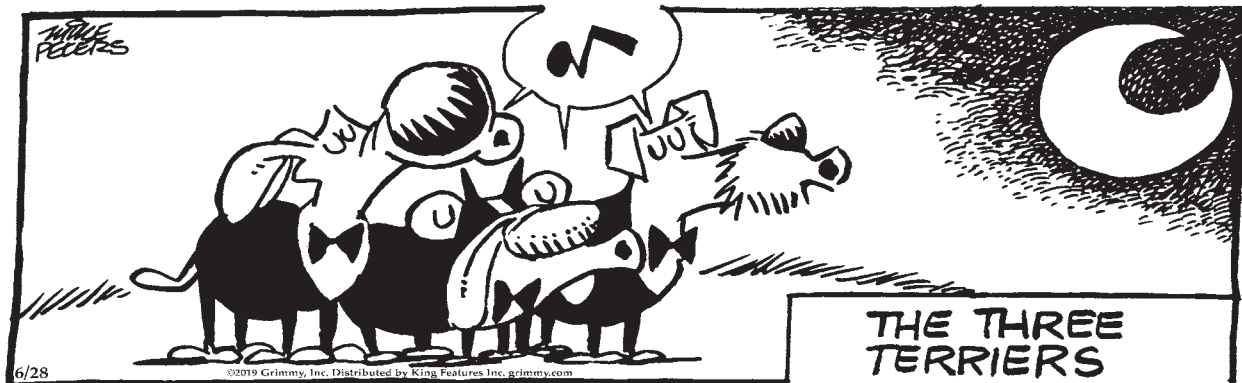
**6 Chix**



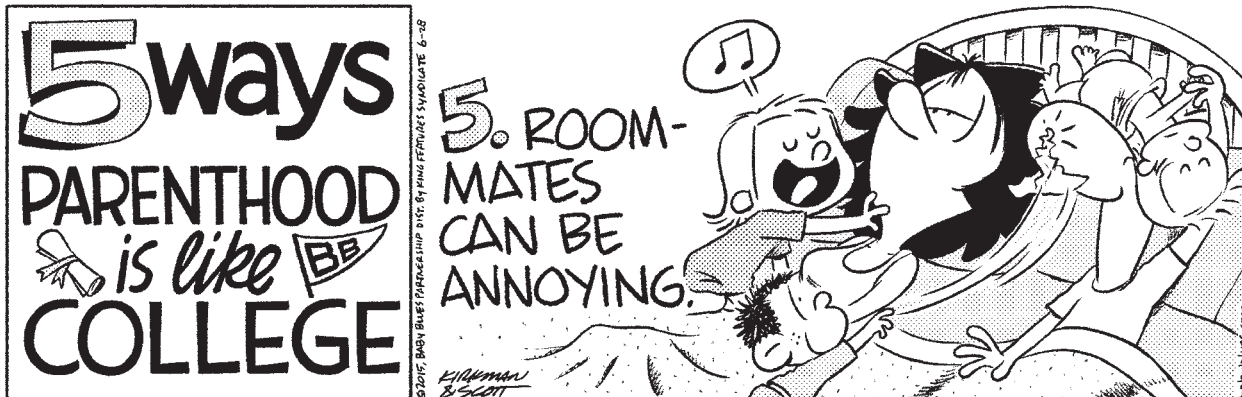
**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

		2			7			4
	1			6			3	
3			1			2		
		4			1			6
	8			4			1	
1			3			5		
		7			3			2
	6			2			5	
8			4			3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	7	6	9	8	5	3	1
3	5	1	7	4	2	9	8	6
9	8	6	3	5	1	7	4	2
7	3	8	9	2	6	1	5	4
5	6	4	1	3	7	8	2	9
2	1	9	4	8	5	6	7	3
6	7	5	2	1	4	3	9	8
1	4	3	8	7	9	2	6	5
8	9	2	5	6	3	4	1	7

**ACROSS**

- '70s carpet style
- Applaud
- British bloke
- Deadly critter
- Mantilla fabric
- Frau's hubby
- Monastery head
- Docility
- Eur. nation
- Light brown
- Like formal attire
- Thrill
- Angelenos
- Counsel; recommendation
- Extends a subscription
- Building block
- Rains cats & dogs
- Likely
- Hose problem
- Football kicks
- Acacia or aspen
- Break a fast
- Web surfer's stops
- Multipplier's word
- Tyrant
- Pulls apart
- Play on words
- Exposed
- Cling; stick
- One in Oaxaca
- Mistaken
- Went in again
- Part of USNA
- in; wearing
- up on; study about
- Camille portrayal
- Snacks
- Lively
- Got bigger

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15			16
17					18				19		
20				21	22			23			
	24	25					26				
27	28					29			30	31	
32					33	34			35		36
37					38				39		
40				41				42			
	43	44					45				
		46				47					
48	49	50				51			52	53	54
55				56	57			58	59		
60				61				62			
63				64					65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/28/19

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

T	A	C	S	H	A	F	T	F	L	E	A
O	I	L	S	H	E	L	L	O	L	U	A
T	R	O	T	R	A	D	A	R	A	R	T
S	T	I	M	U	L	A	N	T	V	E	S
			N	A	B	S		I	D	O	
K	H	A	K	I	S	T	O	L	E	R	A
R	A	G	E	D	T	E	A	L	S	R	U
O	V	E	R	V	O	D	K	A	L	O	B
N	O	N	B	A	L	D	S	W	O	M	E
A	C	T	U	A	L	L	C	A	N	A	R
			T	A	U			T	A	N	G
R	I	F	T					A	C	C	O
A	B	L	E					B	R	U	T
J	E	E	R					L	I	T	H
A	X	E	S					E	B	S	E

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6/28/19

**DOWN**

- Read over quickly
- Vagrant
- Abridge
- Miracle-\_\_\_; plant food
- Duplicate
- Blood analysis site
- King topper
- Street vendors
- Swiss or American
- Chickens' moms
- Semicircles
- on; victimize
- Assault
- Actor Jeremy
- Feasted
- Keep an ice cream cone from dripping
- Suffix for comfort or chew
- Horrible fear
- Grooves
- Reheated
- Drive too fast
- Play miniature golf
- Late bedtime
- Actress Harper
- Western settlers
- Grow weary

- Gush forth
- Mob
- Depletes one's funds
- Word before Antonio or José
- Pal
- St. Louis landmark
- Place to buy salami & rye
- Warmth
- Destiny
- Blemish
- Elected official: abbr.
- Corn cob
- So. Amer. nation



# New Alaska park bridge aimed at limiting bear encounters

By DAN JOLING

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— The National Park Service has completed a project to relieve an Alaska traffic jam.

A new elevated bridge and boardwalk across the Brooks River in Katmai National Park and Preserve has replaced a river-level bridge that was often closed to human tourists because it was occupied by locals — brown bears. The replacement for the old floating bridge was more than a decade in the making.

"Each phase of the project (planning, designing, project development, funding, and construction) took time and involved diverse stakeholder groups," said park Superintendent Mark Sturm in an email response to questions.

Bears catching salmon are a huge draw for the park on the Alaska Peninsula, the arm of land extending from Alaska's southwest corner toward the Aleutian Islands. The park service estimates that 2,200 brown bears inhabit the park, a number exceeding the people who live on the peninsula. They have six to eight months to eat a year's worth of food and ensure their survival through winter, according to the agency.

A popular venue is Brooks Camp, where the park has



In this July 4, 2013, file photo, a brown bear walks to a sandbar to eat a salmon it had just caught at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

Associated Press

three bear-viewing platforms. One is at a waterfall where fish concentrate before trying to leap past the barrier and hungry bears to reach natal streams to spawn.

Visitors must cross the river to reach all three platforms. The old bridge frequently closed when there was a "bear jam," said Park Service spokeswoman Karen Garthwait.

Rangers enforce a 50-yard (46-meter) separation between bears and people. If a bear was on the bridge or close to it in the river, rangers would close the bridge until the bear moved, Garthwait said by email.

Bears were not shooed away, Garthwait said. A Park Service mandate to preserve bears' natural feeding areas and behavior gave bears the right of way. □



## Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
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## Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

## Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

## Editors

Richard Brooks  
Jeancarlo Trinidad

## Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia  
Pilar Flores  
Juan Luis Pinto

## Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Francees  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
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2B Oceanside \$8500  
GV \$6k OV \$7k  
3BEDROOM \$12500

### PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$27k  
Oceanside \$16k  
Oceanview \$15k  
3BEDROOM \$26k  
\*WK. 51 GV \$39k  
\*WK 52 OV \$46k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

## Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

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2B OV \$8000  
1 Bed \$4000  
1B Oceanfront \$7000

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San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### CRUISES



July 02  
Freedom of the Seas  
July 03  
Monarch

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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



# Heat wave outside has little impact on U.N. climate talks

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — U.N. talks on tackling climate change made limited progress over the past 10 days, with several issues still unresolved ahead of three key meetings later this year, officials said Thursday.

Governments wrapped up their regular meeting in Bonn, Germany, amid a record-setting heat wave in parts of Europe.

Australia, South Asia and the Middle East have also experienced extreme temperatures this year in what scientists warn could be a sign of future conditions in a warming world.

"We can no longer afford incremental progress when tackling climate change," U.N. climate chief Patricia Espinosa said in a statement at the end of the talks.

Espinosa called for "deep, transformational and systemic change throughout society" to achieve the most ambitious target in the 2015 Paris climate accord — capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.

Campaigners and vulnerable countries lamented further attempts by oil-rich



A man puts his feet in a fountain Thursday, June 27, 2019 in the Tuileries gardens in Paris.

Associated Press

countries to undermine a key scientific report on meeting that target. The effort was led by Saudi Arabia, but also received overt or tacit support from other fossil fuel exporting nations like Iran and Australia.

"To reject a report that looks at what life might be under temperature increases that we are very close to is fundamentally problematic," said Tyrone Hall, an adviser for the Alliance of Small Island States who took part in the talks.

Average global temperatures have already increased by about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times. Scientists say it's becoming increasingly unlikely the 1.5 C goal can be achieved if current rates of greenhouse gas emissions continue.

Most countries present at the talks said the 1.5-degree report remains the benchmark for discussion. "We think all countries should use that report as the basis for their policy

making and for their action," said Swiss diplomat Franz Xaver Perrez, wearing a t-shirt bearing the slogan "science is not negotiable." A growing number of countries, including major industrialized economies such as Britain, say they want to stop adding carbon — the main greenhouse gas — to the atmosphere by 2050. This goal, known as 'net zero emissions,' failed to get the support of all 28 European Union members earlier this month, but campaigners

hope that may still happen before a Sept. 23 summit hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at which governments from around the world are expected to pledge greater ambition on tackling climate change.

A month later, countries will come together to decide how much money to give to the Green Climate Fund that helps poor nations cope with the impacts of global warming and shift to a low-carbon economy. Among the issues left unresolved in Bonn were the rules by which countries and businesses can pay to cut greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere and count this toward their own targets.

This is likely to become one of the main negotiating points when Chile hosts the annual U.N. climate summit in December.

"I urge governments to use the rest of this year to find solutions, allowing solid rules for carbon markets to finally take shape," said Espinosa. "Businesses want this and they are looking for positive signals from governments that they will do this. They know it's a good way to reduce emissions globally." □



In this May 8, 2019 file photo, sargassum seaweed fills the shore where fishermen push their boat to sea in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Associated Press

## Mexico struggles to understand, solve, seaweed invasion

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico has spent \$17 million to remove over a half-million tons of sargassum seaweed from its Caribbean beaches, and the problem doesn't seem likely to end any time soon, experts told an international conference Thursday.

The floating mats of algae seldom reached the famed beaches around Cancun until 2011, but they're now severely affecting tourism, with visitors often facing stinking mounds of rotting seaweed at the waterline. Initial reports suggested the seaweed came from an area of the Atlantic off the northern coast of Brazil, near the mouth of the Am-

azon River. Increased nutrient flows from deforestation or fertilizer runoff could be feeding the algae bloom. But experts like oceanographer Donald R. Johnson said, "Do not blame the Brazilians." Johnson said it appears that other causes contribute, like nutrient flows from the Congo River. Increased upwelling of nutrient-laden deeper ocean water in the tropical Atlantic and dust blowing in from Africa may also be playing a role, according to Johnson, a senior researcher at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. While it sometimes appears sargassum mats float west

into the Caribbean, experts say the seaweed actually appears to be sloshing back and forth between the Caribbean and Africa. It all has the local population — which depends of tourism — fed up.

"Fighting sargassum is a chore every day," said Cancun Mayor Mara Lezama. "You clean the beaches in the morning, and sometimes you clean them again in the afternoon or at night, and then you have to go back and clean it again."

Ricardo del Valle, a business owner in the seaside resort of Playa del Carmen, said, "We offer sun and sand, nothing else." □

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## Missing treasure: Delacroix canvas rediscovered, now on sale

By CATHERINE GASCHKA

**PARIS (AP)** — It's been hanging on people's walls for almost 170 years without drawing much attention, but a painting showing a group of women has turned out to be more than meets the eye.

The most recent owner of the picture, a Parisian woman, has found out that what she has is a long-forgotten painting by 19th century French Romantic artist Eugene Delacroix.

"A woman walked into the gallery with a painting under her arm, telling me she'd just visited the Delacroix exhibit at the Louvre Museum ... and that she thought her painting shared some resemblance" with the artist's "Women of Algiers in their Apartment," said Philippe Mendes, director of the Mendes Gallery in Paris.

"I took a look at the painting, which was dirty and with a very thick yellow varnish, but I felt it had Delacroix's very particular style.



In this photo taken on Friday, June 21, 2019 Philippe Mendes, owner of the Galerie Mendes speaks during an interview for the presentation of Eugene Delacroix, oil painting "Women of Algiers in their Apartment" in Paris.

Associated Press

So I said, let's clean the painting and let's see what comes out of it," he told The Associated Press in an interview.

"After we cleaned it, the radiant and extraordinary

colors typical of Delacroix really stood out and we knew we had to start doing some real research."

The painting, now hanging in Mendes' gallery as he negotiates with a U.S. muse-

um seeking to buy it, shows a pale woman seated and an African slave standing next to her, looking at the other woman over her shoulder. The same scene is captured in "Women of

Algiers in their Apartment," which was painted after in 1833-34 after Delacroix visited North Africa. That painting now lives in the Louvre.

Art historian and Delacroix expert Virginie Cauchi-Fatiga investigated the curious canvas at Mendes' request. She analyzed the technique and use of colors, compared it with other Delacroix paintings, then used infrared and X-ray images to look deeper.

After more than a year of examination, her verdict: She says with "absolute certainty" that the painting is a Delacroix work, a study for "Women of Algiers." The study was sold at auction in 1850 and hadn't been shown in public since.

She called it a discovery "of prime importance, because it really is a gateway into the artist's mind right at the moment" he was working on "Women of Algiers." "The colors are distinctive of Delacroix's work, but it's also about how they are associated," she said. □

## Britney Spears' conservatorship sues blogger for defamation

By ANDREW DALTON

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The conservatorship that oversees Britney Spears' personal life and career sued the creator of a blog devoted to the pop superstar Wednesday in an increasingly aggressive effort to push back against the so-called "Free Britney" movement, which alleges the singer is being controlled against her will.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles alleges that Anthony Elia, who runs the website Absolute Britney, has falsely claimed the court-ordered conservatorship has manipulated Spears' Instagram account to make her appear more troubled and in need of help than she actually is.

"It is time for the conspiracy theories about Britney Spears' well-being and the mob #FreeBritney movement to stop," the lawsuit states in its opening line.

Elia's blog and its social media accounts have played



This Feb. 11, 2017 file photo shows Britney Spears at the Clive Davis and The Recording Academy Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

a key role in the "Free Britney" phenomenon, a group of fans who say on social media and in public protests that the singer is being controlled against her will by her father Jaime,

who serves as her conservator, and that she is surreptitiously seeking help to free herself.

The suit alleges that Elia "has made it his mission to spread false and malicious

lies on the internet about Britney, her conservatorship and her team, including that those around Britney are harming her and not acting in her best interests." A message sent through

the blog and an email seeking comment from Elia were not immediately returned.

The suit comes two weeks after the conservatorship for similar reasons sought and received a five-year restraining order against Spears' former manager Sam Lutfi. It prohibits him from trying to undermine the conservatorship by contacting members of the Spears family or writing disparaging posts on social media.

A conservatorship, known in some states as a guardianship, is normally reserved for those who are severely debilitated. One was established for Spears 11 years ago during her very public meltdown, and has been kept in place ever since. The arrangement has increasingly come under attack from fans, who have grown especially loud about it in recent months. Spears has offered little public comment on the conservatorship. □



# 'Midsommar' is a disturbing, enthralling trip

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

"Midsommar" is a waking nightmare and I mean that in the best possible way. For over two hours you will be transported to a beautiful village in the middle of nowhere in a foreign land where the sun never seems to set and everyone is wearing ornate flower crowns and enchantingly embroidered frocks. The

details of why you're there will seem fuzzy and dubious. Someone's thesis, maybe? But you go along with it even when things start getting weird. You will eat strange food and drink strange drinks. You will take drugs you don't want and be subjected to ceremonies and rituals and a language you don't understand. You will witness some of the most



This image released by A24 shows Jack Reynor, right, and Florence Pugh in a scene from the horror film "Midsommar."

Associated Press

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**ANNABELLE COMES HOME**

PH	MON-THU	4:30	6:55	9:20
	FRI	4:30	6:55	9:20   11:45
YIP	SAT	2:05	4:30	6:55   9:20   11:45
	SUN	2:05	4:30	6:55   9:20

CXC

PBP	MON-THU	3:50	6:10	8:30
	FRI	3:50	6:10	8:30   10:50
	SAT	1:30	3:50	6:10   8:30   10:50
	SUN	1:30	3:50	6:10   8:30

PBP

YIP	MON-THU & SUN	8:50
	FRI-SAT	8:50   11:15

SYLVESTER STALLONE | DAVE BAUTISTA

**ESCAPE PLAN THE EXTRACTORS**

PH	MON-THU	4:55	7:10	9:25
	FRI	4:55	7:10	9:25   11:40
	SAT	2:40	4:55	7:10   9:25   11:40
	SUN	2:40	4:55	7:10   9:25

HIMESH PATEL | LILY JAMES

**YESTERDAY**

PH	MON-THU	5:40	8:15
	FRI	5:40	8:15   10:50
	SAT	3:05	5:40   8:15   10:50
	SUN	3:05	5:40   8:15

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	3:45	6:30	9:15
	SAT-SUN	1:00	3:45	6:30   9:15

CHRIS HEMSWORTH | TESSA THOMPSON

**MIB INTERNATIONAL**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13

PH	MON-THU	5:50	8:25
	FRI	5:50	8:25   11:00
	SAT	3:15	5:50   8:25   11:00
	SUN	3:15	5:50   8:25

PBP

YIP	MON-THU	4:20	9:20
	FRI	4:20	9:20   10:00
	SAT	1:50	4:20   9:20   10:00
	SUN	1:50	4:20   9:20

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD

**Disney Aladdin**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PH	MON-FRI	6:00	8:50
	SAT-SUN	3:10	6:00   8:50

TOM HANKS | TIM ALLEN

**Disney PIXAR TOY STORY 4**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES G

PH	MON-THU	4:00	6:25	8:50
	FRI	4:00	6:25	8:50   11:15
YIP	SAT	1:40	4:00	6:25   8:50   11:15
	SUN	1:40	4:00	6:25   8:50

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	4:10	6:30
	SAT-SUN	1:50	4:10   6:30

PBP

YIP	MON-FRI	3:50	6:05	6:55
	SAT-SUN	12:55	1:35	3:50   6:05   6:55

SPANISH

MON-THU	5:25	7:45
FRI	5:25	7:45   10:00
SAT	3:10	5:25   7:45   10:00
SUN	3:10	5:25   7:45

AUBREY PLAZA | MARK HAMILL

**CHILD'S PLAY**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PBP	MON-FRI	5:30	7:35	9:40
	SAT-SUN	1:20	3:25	5:30   7:35   9:40

SASHA LUSS | HELEN MIRREN

**ANNA**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES R

PBP	MON-THU & SUN	8:20
	FRI-SAT	8:20   10:55

PATTON OSWALT | KEVIN HART

**PET 52**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG

PBP	MON-FRI	4:00	6:00	8:00
	SAT-SUN	2:00	4:00	6:00   8:00

OPENING JULY 4: SPIDERMAN FAR FROM HOME, THE POISON ROSE

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disturbing things you've ever seen. You will not be too concerned when people start disappearing. You will lose the ability to rely on your one anchor to the real world. And even though you will barely comprehend what's going on around you, you won't be able to leave or look away. Writer and director Ari Aster is to thank, or blame, for this

extraordinary experience that's equal parts befuddling and enthralling. It's only Aster's second feature film following the terrifying family drama "Hereditary" and it's clear that the talent and deranged verve he teased there was no fluke. But enter with caution: "Midsommar" is not as straightforward a horror as "Hereditary" was.

It's hazier and harder to grasp, despite taking place almost entirely in blunt daylight. This is an experiment in escalating uneasiness absent any release or catharsis.

As in "Hereditary," a family tragedy sets an ominous tone, but this time it hits you right at the beginning before you've gotten to know anyone. □

## Cardi B pleads not guilty to new charges in strip club brawl



Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B, right, waves at fans as she arrives for a hearing at Queens County Criminal Court, Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

By VERENA DOBNIK

NEW YORK (AP) — Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B was arraigned Tuesday on new felony charges in connection with a fight last year at a New York City

strip club.

"Not guilty, sir, honor," said the rapper dressed in a dark blue and light pink pantsuit with her hair tinted blue as she pleaded in state court to two counts of attempt-

ed assault and various misdemeanor charges, including harassment, criminal solicitation, conspiracy and reckless endangerment.

The rap star, whose chart-topping hits include "I Like It" and "Bodak Yellow," has showcased her fashion style at each of her court appearances. She didn't speak to reporters as she entered and left the courthouse, but waved at a small crowd of fans who shouted her name and took video on their cellphones.

The 26-year-old Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, and her entourage argued with a bartender at Angels Strip Club, police have said. They say a fight broke out in which chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown, causing minor injuries to the woman and another employee. □



# Julio Iglesias reflects on a life that 'has been a miracle'

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS

**NEW YORK (AP)** — At 75 and after a five-decade-long career, Julio Iglesias keeps performing internationally, driven by his passion and, above all, a relentless discipline.

It's something the Spanish crooner says he had to learn early on, after a nearly fatal car accident frustrated his plans to play professional soccer.

"In fact, my life has been a miracle," says Iglesias, recalling how he spent "months and months" in bed unable to move, and then needed canes to walk for more than two years.

The "magical" accident — as he calls it today — stripped him of his physical strength and his life as he knew it, but it also gave him a greater awareness of other people's struggles and helped him learn to fight, to listen, to look people in the eye. "You see life differently, you learn to live again," Iglesias says.

It also put him in the path of music. While Iglesias was struggling to move his arms and fingers, his physician-father's assistant gave him an old guitar as a gift.

"I learned five or six harmonies from a music book that I had, don't think I learned much more than that because I couldn't move my fingers that fast. That is why my first songs have two or three harmonies," the singer recalls with a laugh.

But those few chords were more than enough to launch an impressive career. Iglesias, who also studied law, debuted in 1969 with the album "Yo canto" and went on to become one of the most successful singers in the world, with more than 250 million records sold around the globe.

He has received awards and accolades that include the Gold Medal of Merit in the Fine Arts from Spain, was named a knight of France's Legion of Honor and, early this year, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammys. He is currently touring in Europe ahead of a series of shows in the U.S. that be-



In this Sept. 29, 2016 file photo, Spain's singer Julio Iglesias smiles during his star unveiling ceremony at the Walk of Fame in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

gin Sept. 14 in Boston.

How does he do it?

"Everything was a bigger struggle for me, everything required a bigger effort, so I understood that the sole basis for my future was discipline, and I maintain that discipline today, at 75," Iglesias assures. "I mean, going out onstage to sing is an act of discipline and of absolute passion. Passion is natural, but discipline is will-power."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press from the Dominican Republic, where he lives, Iglesias spoke about his life, his career, his family and his regrets. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: It's been 50 years since the release of "Yo canto" and here you are, still singing strong. Besides discipline, what else has worked for you? Any advice for the younger generations?

Iglesias: Giving advice is very easy ... but giving advice to younger people is hard. I have two older sons that sing, Julio and Enrique, and they don't allow me to give them advice. They don't, neither of them. And when we start talking about music, the conversation takes a different turn and goes to other places because they need their own free will, the absolute freedom to choose what they like. That is important.

AP: How did you develop that unique singing style?

Julio Iglesias: In life, it is very important to be natural, because that's what creates your style. Good or bad, liked or disliked, but your style has to be unmistakable. When we speak of Pavarotti, Plácido, Carreras or Bocelli, we are fundamentally speaking about great styles. I think the style is more important than the voice.

AP: In retrospective, anything you regret about your life or your career?

Iglesias: I regret not having taken more advantage of time — of the solidity of time, the intention of time. That's why I don't like to sleep much anymore. Had I known when I was 20 that I was going to be a musician, I would have taken to the piano, I would have taken the guitar more seriously, I would have perfected my knowledge of music.

AP: But here you are, one of the biggest artists in the world half a decade later. You didn't do so badly...  
Iglesias: No, but I think you must learn as much as you can, and also know how to learn. A few days ago, I recalled when I had a huge American success with the album "1100 Bel Air Place" and I gave 12 or 14 concerts at the Universal Amphitheater. Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Bob Hope, legend-

ary artists that have since passed away, came to see me, and I didn't make the time. It didn't occur to me to approach them, to have dinner with them and ask them about their lives to learn from them.

AP: Your career demanded constant traveling. Would you have liked to spend more time with your family?  
Iglesias: I don't think — and I always say this clearly — that it affected my relationship with my children. Quite the opposite. Enrique is a singer, Julio is a singer, Chabeli did television for many years. Then there is Miguel, the only one who doesn't like to sing. Rodrigo, who loves music. And the younger girls, who now want to be models or something. And my little Guillermo plays the piano, the drums, he is a natural musician. I think all those things happened because I opened a highway for them. Of course, they need to follow it, amplify it and seek other roads, separate from that road. But that opened a door that is the door of light, and the door of light is magical. That makes me not regret it. If I had taken much more care of my children, they wouldn't have lights. And I would have lost my time.

AP: At 75, anything you would still like to achieve?

Iglesias: Many things. I like a lot to read; I don't read that much anymore. I loved to travel; I travel less. In reality, time puts many things in its place. Stairs seem much longer and steeper. Everything after 65 starts to be a part of your life that you have to legitimize based on discipline. And give thanks continuously. In fact, my life has been a miracle. Almost like a novel: a person that plays soccer, that has an accident and almost dies, that studies law and starts to sing, that doesn't know how to sing and sings, that doesn't know how to walk and runs, that was a skinny boy and becomes stronger. I was nobody. And I'm still nobody because deep down we are all nobodies. Deep down it's the people that make us somebody. □



# Venezuela's vanishing red bird gets a coffee pick-me-up

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

**CARAYACA, Venezuela (AP)** — Images of a tiny red bird that barely fills the palm of one's hand appear everywhere in Venezuela — printed on money, labels of craft beer bottles and the cover of children's school books.

But the finch-like red siskin is vanishing from the wild at an alarming rate, falling prey to a century of shrinking forests and poachers cashing in on their brilliant red feathers, prized around the world by breeders of exotic birds.

That threat has brought together an international team including scientists from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and poor coffee farmers in Venezuela's remote mountains, all set on rescuing it from extinction. The plan is to entice farmers to plant organic coffee groves with layers of thick branches that are inviting to the endangered, perching songbird, which has lost a lot of its habitat. "They don't have many years left, unless we do something right now," said Miguel Arvelo, a veterinarian for the Caracas-based nonprofit Provita, one of the groups spearheading the effort.

The "Cardenalito," or "Little Cardinal" as it is affectionately called, holds a special place in Venezuelan culture, the poster child of some 1,400 bird species — from the Amazon to the Andes — that live in one of the world's most biodiverse



In this Oct. 24, 2018 photo, a Venezuelan male red siskin takes flight in Vargas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

landscapes.

Once flourishing in the millions, as few as 300 remain in the wild in Venezuela, although scientists say it's difficult to estimate their numbers in the politically turbulent and dangerous country.

The Red Siskin Initiative launched about three years ago on a shoestring budget of less than \$100,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private groups in the U.S. and Venezuela.

Planting organic groves with thick branches reverses a trend among farmers who boost bean production by thinning coffee groves for more sunlight, or cut them down altogether to plant vegetables that turn a quicker profit.

Farmers who meet the project's strict standards will

win the right to market their beans with "Bird Friendly" labels and take advantage of a loophole in Venezuelan law to set prices for premium products, sometimes five times higher than price caps set by the socialist government. Eventually they hope to export the coffee.

In parallel, a red siskin breeding center is being built at a private zoo in Venezuela where 200 birds are expected to be hatched next year, adding to the 25 caged at the Smithsonian Institution, forming a type of Noah's Ark to ensure that the iconic species does not disappear. Red siskins from the center will be introduced into the coffee groves.

While still in its early stages, backers say coffee initiative is already showing positive results. Some 40 farmers in the rugged, coastal mountains of Carayaca, northwest of the capital Caracas, have already stopped cutting down trees — an important first step to creating a robust habitat.

The tiny bird is prized for its fiery red plumage and jet-black hood on males, coveted by breeders who cross them with less colorful canaries to produce offspring of orange or red spots.

Protection under Venezuelan law dating back to the 1940s hasn't stopped

poachers from catching it to sell on the international black market. Online they go for more than \$300, and demand remains high in Eastern Europe and Asia, scientists say.

Adding to challenges, poor Venezuelan families often capture and sell the threatened bird to illegal traffickers. The profit can feed their children for months, said biologist Jhonathan Miranda, a Provita researcher.

Michael Braun, co-founder of the Red Siskin Initiative and a research scientist at Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, said Venezuela's deepening crisis has also taken a toll.

The oil-rich nation was for decades a coveted destination for naturalists and

amateur birders. But recently a field researcher in a remote mountain range was robbed of his binoculars and then shot at by two young men on a motorcycle, Braun said. At least one key member of their research team joined a growing exodus of Venezuelans fleeing the country.

"Every time I tell somebody we have an endangered bird project in Venezuela, they say, 'Oh, Venezuela? Good luck,'" Braun said. "It's a challenge."

The red siskin's primary range is the Caribbean coastal region of Venezuela, and some have been found in neighboring areas of Colombia and Guyana.

Scientists carefully conceal the bird's location to protect them from poachers, but they allowed The Associated Press to photograph a small flock at a secret location in their natural habitat. Catching sight of them required arriving before dawn, hiding motionless and silently in tall grass thick with mosquitoes under pouring rain. Then, the sun broke through and they swooped in — a dozen or more — landing one by one on tangled tree branches overhead, preening and loudly singing.

In Carayaca, Simon Then, a 53-year-old blue-eyed, blond farmer — descended from early German settlers — walks through his family's coffee grove surrounded by dozens of leafy, 5-foot-high shrubs nestled on a steep slope. □



This Oct. 20, 2018 photo shows Bolivar bank notes decorated with images of Venezuela's red siskin bird, as part of rescue program in Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 10, 2018 photo, agronomist Luis Arrieta inspects coffee beans that are in the germination process, to be planted in fields where peaches are grown in the coastal area of Carayaca on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press